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GRANT VIEWS **STEPHEN RENO**

Sacred times

When I was a kid, it was around this time of year that our family would acquire a calendar for the coming year. I believe it came from a local funeral home. Before it was hung on the bulletin board in the kitchen my mother would carefully enter on the day squares across the months all of the family birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations. These were in addition to those holidays and holy days already printed on the calendar. Once so filled out, it was hung up and became the reference for many of our activities throughout the ensuing year.

Such was for me an early lesson in a most fundamental human insight, namely, that all days are not alike.

Some days have meaning because of what happened in the past (a birth event or a marriage). Others have meaning because of what will happen (e.g., the first day of school, the beginning of a vacation, or a wedding). When the day arrives, we seem to experience it differently, perhaps more deliberately observing the passage of the hours through some kind of special practice: a meal, gift-giving, a parade, procession, speech or gathering.

Among the religions of the world, the calendar is more than a chart of days and months. In many traditions, the religious calendar is synchronized to the cycle of the seasons: a time of new life (spring), a period of fullness (summer), a time of decline (autumn) and a period of dormancy (winter). Among agricultural communities, rituals were usually linked to each of these periods and represented a collective effort to ensure fertility.

At the same time, for the Western traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the sacred calendar also commemorates major religious-historical events: Passover, Easter or Eid al-Fitr (the culmination of Ramadan). In the Hindu tradition, the spring festival of Holi is dedicated to Krishna, the New Year festival of Divali to the goddess of good fortune, Lakshmi, and the 10 days of celebration in October – *Dasara* – in honor of the god Kali. Whatever their basis, these holidays give the believer a time to pause, put aside daily work and activities, and focus attention on something transcendent, something that gives meaning and purpose to one's life.

Despite the commercialism of Black Friday or Cyber Monday, we are entering a period of religious festivals across nearly all of major traditions. While the names of these may be different and their origins and significance equally varied, they are, nonetheless, all sacred times set aside to challenge us to reflect on what is truly important and lasting.

Stephen Reno is the executive director of Leadership New Hampshire and former chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire. His email is stepreno@gmail.com.

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 49 Hollis St., Manchester, N.H. 03101
 P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
 www.hippopress.com
 e-mail: news@hippopress.com

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor
 Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com

Managing Editor
 Meghan Siegler, msiegler@hippopress.com, ext. 13

Editorial Design
 Ashley McCarty, hippolayout@gmail.com

Copy Editor
 Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com

Staff Writers
 Emelia Attridge
 eattridge@hippopress.com, ext. 30
 Kelly Sennott
 ksennott@hippopress.com, ext. 12
 Allie Ginwala
 aginwala@hippopress.com, ext. 52
 Joshua Rosenson
 jrosenson@hippopress.com

Contributors Deidre Ashe, Joel Bergeron, Sid Ceaser, Allison Willson Dudas, Rick Ganley, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Dave Long, Lauren Mifsud, Stefanie Phillips, Eric W. Saeger, Gil Talbot, Michael Witthaus.
 To reach the newsroom call 625-1855, ext. 13.

Listings
 Arts listings: arts@hippopress.com
 Inside/Outside listings: listings@hippopress.com
 Food & Drink listings: food@hippopress.com
 Music listings: music@hippopress.com

BUSINESS

Publisher
 Jody Reese, Ext. 21

Associate Publisher
 Dan Szczesny

Associate Publisher
 Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 23

Production
 Andrew Mason, Katie Ruiz,
 Michelle LeBlanc, Ken Duquet
 and Joshua Falkenburg

Circulation Manager
 Doug Ladd, Ext. 35

Advertising Manager
 Charlene Cesarini, Ext. 26

Account Executives
 Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026
 Katharine Stickney, Ext. 44
 Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 27
 Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 25

Reception & Bookkeeping
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ON THE COVER

14 PARTY EASY Maybe you've agreed to throw a holiday party for the first time ever, or maybe you host one every year. Either way, you probably have visions of never-ending-to-do lists dancing in your head. The Hippo talked to local pros about how to simplify everything — from decorations and food to music and games. So stop stressing and start looking forward to a fun, easy-going party.



Also on the cover, head to the Stockbridge Theater in Derry for some a cappella rock (p. 24). Go Italian and celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes (p. 49). Haven't figured out what to do for Christmas dinner? Check out our guide to eat-in and take-out meals, starting on page 42.

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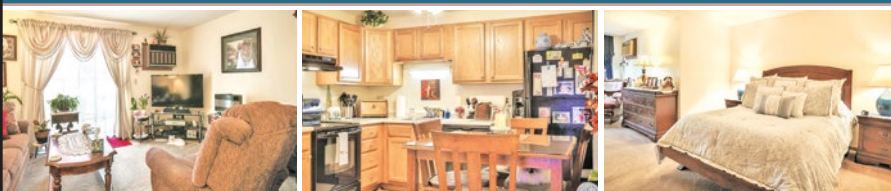
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Ward 9's Arthur Beaudry. Photo courtesy of the Manchester School District website.

Resigned

Manchester School Board members Arthur Beaudry, Robyn Dunphy and Debra Gagnon Langton have resigned from their post on the Student Conduct Committee but will remain on the school board.

According to Beaudry, the matter of contention was that of an expelled student, who the subcommittee was going to have an expedient hearing on, was allowed back in school by Superintendent Dr. Debra Livingston and Assistant Superintendent Karen Burkush via an Office for Civil Rights (OCR) report.

"We were upset because we were never notified that they were going to have this OCR report," Beaudry told the Hippo. "Three of us decided to resign if they were going to overrule our decisions. Obviously they did not care [about] the opinion of the committee."

The subcommittee, Beaudry said, is supposed to make final decisions in determining cases, and those decisions do not have to be reviewed by the rest of the board.

"It's a subcommittee that has autonomy for expulsions of students," he said.

Livingston and Burkush declined to comment.

Reducing drunk driving

The New Hampshire State Liquor Commission, using a \$25,000 grant, will be bolstering its efforts this holiday season, primarily via awareness, to reduce drunk driving, according

to a press release. The Division of Enforcement and Licensing announced on Dec. 12 how it plans to spend the \$25,000 grant from the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association. It intends to increase its visibility at licensed establishments to raise awareness. Additionally, it will be working with local law enforcement to collect "place of last drink" data, and then conduct covert operations to see if establishments are over-serving people, the release said.

Fish and Game shortfall

The New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game is examining options for 2015 to counter a potential \$3 million shortfall, the Concord Monitor reported.

An undesignated fund, the level of which sat at \$2.19 million in July, has dwindled to \$860,000. A sustainability report that was completed in November made recommendations as to how the department could generate the revenue. One is the voluntary hiker safety card, used to offset the cost of a rescue for lost hikers, which will go into effect in January. The recommendation also includes a \$10 hunting and fishing license for people over the age of 68, who currently get their licenses for free, the Monitor reported.

The Legislature has approved stopgap funding, which would keep the department functioning through 2015, but the money still needs to be addressed. The New Hampshire branch of Nature Conservancy has presented several ideas, including letting Fish and Game set their own fees and giving more power to the director to make legislative decisions, the Monitor reported.

Retirement funding hike

Public employees will soon be required to contribute more to their retirement following a state Supreme Court decision that came down last week, the Union Leader reported. Lawmakers had revised the requirements in 2011, which said employees had to contribute more to retirement. Last year, the Merrimack Superior Court overruled

the lawmakers revisions, ruling that the law would violate contracts of vested employees. While at least one organization was unhappy with the new ruling, Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley R-Wolfeboro, was encouraged, saying it amends and approves the state retirement system, the Union Leader reported.

More cuts for NHTI

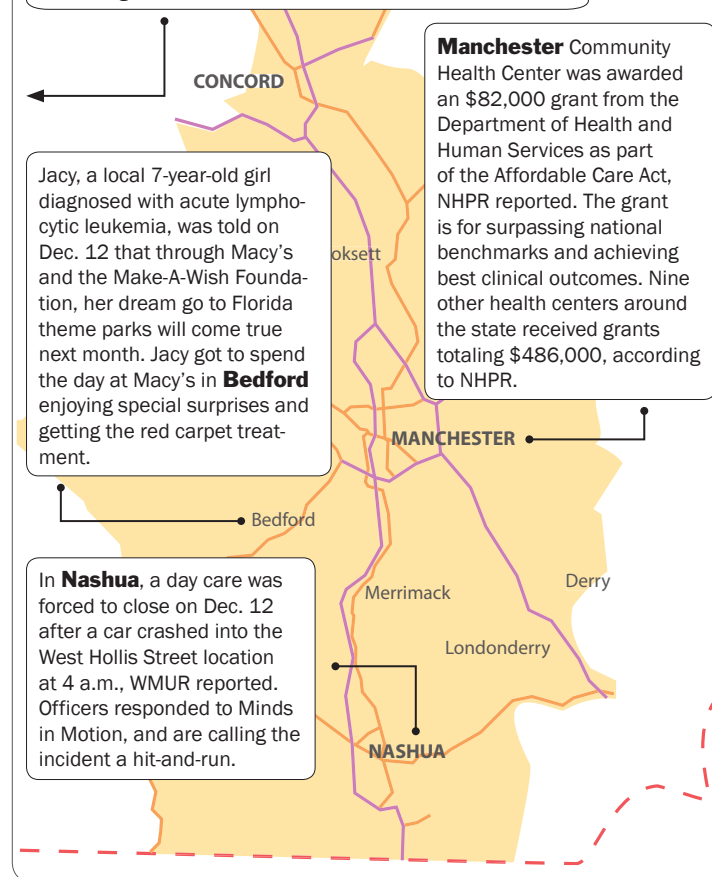
The state community college system is undergoing another round of staffing cuts, citing a shortfall in tuition revenue as the reason, NHPR reported. The cuts came down on New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord. It was announced in November that five full-time and one part-time position would be cut. This round of cuts follows another, larger round, which took place heading into the school year and saw 14 positions get axed, NHPR reported. Heading into the next budget cycle, the schools will be seeking an additional \$6.4 million in state funding, aimed toward lowering tuition costs, according to an nhpr.org report.

250 in 2015

The new year rings in the 250th for the City of Concord, and the Capital City will be celebrating the anniversary all through the year, starting with a Cheers to 250 Years! New Year's Eve Gala.

To facilitate the yearlong cel-

New England College in **Henniker** has named a new provost, promoting from within. The school appointed Dr. Mark Watman, Ed.D to the newly created position. Watman is a Henniker native and earned his bachelor's degree from NEC, while also graduating from the school's first doctoral class in 2014. Watman has held several positions previously at NEC, including vice president for academic affairs, according to a news release.



bration, Concord is bringing in Kim Murdoch of Murdoch Social Capital, as its project manager, according to a press release. Murdoch is a Concord native and has had heavy involvement on boards and Concord TV. She also founded the nonprofit Concord Public Safety Foundation and has served as

executive director of Centennial Senior Center and interim executive director of Intown Concord. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Concord 250's dedicated Board and enthusiastic volunteers to craft a year-long celebration worthy of our City," she said in the press release. 🐻

BEST WEEK



BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Bedford High School checked in at the No. 2 spot on the 2015 Niche Rankings list of the Top 50 of New Hampshire's public high schools, WMUR reported. Other notables in southern New Hampshire include Goffstown High School (12), Londonderry Senior High School (10), Hollis-Brookline High School (7), Hopkinton High School (6), Bow High School (5) and Souhegan Cooperative High School (4). "Well, to be fair, there [are] a lot of different rankings, looking at schools, so I wouldn't want to put too much credence on one. It is, however, nice to see the people at the high school recognized," Bedford School District Superintendent Chip McGee told the Hippo. "We've got some areas we want to continue to get better, [such as] use of technology, helping kids avoid destructive decisions [regarding] substance abuse and having more students take our most challenging classes. Go Bulldogs!"

WORST WEEK



QUEEN CITY SAFETY STATS

In a recent report released by Movoto Insider, a real estate brokerage site, Manchester was listed as the third most dangerous city in the state. The study was based on the FBI's 2012 Uniform Crime Report. Other southern New Hampshire cities making their mark in the Top 10 were Concord (8) and Nashua (9). Somersworth was named the most dangerous city. The good news is, that same report named New Hampshire as the safest state in which to live.



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NEWS

The road to independence

Good News Garage gets people back on the road

By Josh Rosenson
jrosenson@hippopress.com

After a year without a car, Savannah McIntire of Manchester has her independence back. She and her three kids, ages 7, 4 and 2, can now jump in their 2005 Chrysler Town & Country to go grocery shopping rather than having to find a ride. And she's just one of the 100 Granite Staters that Good News Garage has donated to this year.

"We had been without a vehicle for about a year. It's very difficult to do that with three children, between doctor's appointments [and other essential trips]. Simple tasks [like] grocery shopping was monumental. Finding a ride from someone to fit me, my three children and groceries was a very difficult thing to do," McIntire said. "We no longer have to swap out car seats or rustle up some gas money for other people."

McIntire uses the van to get to work and run errands, but she also used it for a special trip shortly after getting the car from Good News Garage.

"I was able to take my children to the beach this summer. My oldest had been to the beach, but my two youngest had not. It's been great to do some recreational things as well," McIntire said.

Good News Garage processed its 5,000th vehicle this month, since its founding in Burlington, Vermont, in 1996. The organization just celebrated its 12th anniversary in the Granite State, where it provides about 100 cars a year, and Gov. Maggie Hassan has proclaimed December Donate a Car month.

Partnering with the New Hampshire Employment Program, Good News Garage gets cars to people who have to get to work but have no transportation, said Susan Swain, marketing and communications manager of Ascentria Care Alliance, of which Good News Garage is a member. Good News



Savannah McIntire of Manchester, standing in front of her "new" car with her 7-year-old daughter. Courtesy photo.

Garage also helps people looking for work and those in training programs.

"We call ourselves a 'Wheels to Work' program," Swain said. "We've been doing it for a long time. And it's truly life-changing. Typically it's a single mom here in New Hampshire. If you don't have a car, you're stuck, so it's pretty amazing. It's for local families trying to get to work, trying to raise their kids."

McIntire couldn't say enough about the program.

"The people that work there are fantastic, they are so nice. Just really out of this world; they go out of their way to do anything they can. The way they hand over the car to you is remarkable. They provide so much more than just the vehicle. Giving me that sense of accomplishment is something I couldn't do by myself."

McIntire said they took her to the garage

where her van was repaired and explained all the repairs to her. She also said they will provide her with the first three oil changes and a warranty.

Swain said donations are taken from all over New England and upstate New York, and that Good News Garage will tow cars from anywhere in New England. In 2013, 221 cars were awarded between New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts.

"The donations have been down. People are holding on to cars a little longer. We are seeing cars that need more repairs or have more mileage. We are struggling to find suitable, reliable cars," Swain said.

December is usually the biggest month for donations.

"We fully inspect it. We go beyond the standard inspection criteria, very much so, because a typical donation is 10 years or older. It's well-maintained but does need some

work," Swain said. "We put in approximately \$1,500 into every car. The goal is to provide a vehicle that will be safe for at least a year, without any major repair."

Unsuitable vehicles are auctioned and proceeds go to repairs on other cars. Good News Garage also accepts handicap-friendly vehicles, as well as luxury and specialty vehicles; in the past, it has received a Porsche and a 2010 Phantom motorcycle. The organization has also accepted campers and riding lawn mowers, and Swain said those were either auctioned off or sold.

Swain said Good News Garage partners with about a half dozen garages in the Manchester area.

There is about a four- to six-month waiting list to receive a car, Swain said. Good News Garage also works to match the recipient with an appropriate car. For example, a mother of three wouldn't receive a two-door car, and someone with an hour commute to work isn't likely to receive an SUV.

In the last five years, people in 97 cities and towns in New Hampshire have been awarded vehicles.

Good News Garage also accepts cash donations, which go to providing tires, oil changes and repairs. They also take "good, usable" tires and car care items, such as jumper cables, Swain said. People can donate via phone at 877-GIVE-AUTO or online at good-news-garage.org.

When donating, the tax deduction is fair market value on the vehicle, Swain said, and it can exceed the trade-in value of an older vehicle.

Recipients do not get to find out whose donation they received, but they are encouraged to write "thank you" notes to the anonymous donor.

McIntire wished to thank all the donors who give to Good News Garage.

"Without them, it wouldn't be possible," McIntire said. 🙏

An advertisement for Pearson's Jewelry & Diamonds. The central focus is a Luminox SXC GMT watch with a blue dial and black strap. The watch is set against a background of various jewelry items, including a diamond ring and a necklace. The Luminox logo is in the top left corner. At the bottom, the text reads: "Pearson's A FAMILY TRADITION SINCE 1887". Below that, a red banner contains the text: "Specializing in Watches, Jewelry, & Diamonds | 926 Elm Street • Manchester, NH | www.PearsonsJewelry.com | (603)625-8442".

An advertisement for Mystic Images Salon & Spa. It features a woman with long brown hair holding a green gift box with a gold ribbon. The text at the top right says: "If you purchase \$100 or more in gift certificates Pick a discount tag off our tree to add to your gift, or as a gift for yourself". The business name "Mystic Images" is written in a large, elegant script. Below it, "SALON & SPA" is in a smaller, bold font. The website "mysticimagesspa.com" and a Facebook icon are also present. At the bottom, the address and phone number are listed: "603-554-1796 | 292 Rte. 101, Unit E, Salzberg Sq. Amherst NH | Facebook.com/mysticimages".

Medicaid helps 26,000 more

Over 26,000 more NH residents have already enrolled

By Josh Rosenson
jrosenson@hippopress.com

Granite Staters are taking advantage of the Medicaid expansion rolled out in July, with over 26,000 new enrollees as of Dec. 9.

"Prior to the expansion, there was no pathway to Medicaid eligibility for able-bodied adults without children," said Lisabritt Solsky, deputy Medicaid director for New Hampshire.

Medicaid previously provided health insurance coverage to low-income children, senior citizens, expectant mothers, and people with disabilities.

"In addition, the current adult categories [disabled or parents] have very low income thresholds. So the expansion extends coverage by both creating a new 'group' with higher income than other traditional coverage groups."

The Medicaid expansion is 100 percent federally funded under the Affordable Care Act until 2016, Solsky said. She said qualifying adults are those ages 19 to 64 whose income is up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line. That equates to \$16,105 for

one adult, according to healthcare.gov.

Prior to expansion, nearly all enrollees were under 100 percent of the poverty line, "by a good margin," Solsky said.

The expanded Medicaid program began accepting applications in July, with coverage beginning Aug. 15, Solsky said.

"We didn't have an [enrollment] target for calendar year 2014. We do have a target for the first 12 months of the program," Solsky said.

And while over 26,000 new enrollees in five months is on pace to surpass the 50,000 that was projected for a year, Solsky said there is no financial burden on the program.

There are two important things to know about the program, Solsky said.

"One, it's the law that people have health coverage, and [two], this is comprehensive coverage [for an individual]," Solsky said.

Currently, there are about 140,000 "traditional" Medicaid enrollees in New Hampshire, in addition to the new 26,000 under the expansion.

The federal government will continue to fund the program — paying no less than 90 percent — after 2016. 🌩

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

It's an honor

Detective hailed for work with child victims of abuse

Detective Justin Breton isn't looking to be honored for the work he does with child victims of abuse and neglect; he believes in the team model, and that the greatest outcomes can be achieved on behalf of the victims through a multidisciplinary unit. So when he was honored as an Everyday Hero by the Child Advocacy Centers, Breton was humbled. He took a few minutes out of his day recently to discuss how he got into police work, its rewards and its challenges.

Q: *How did you get into police work?*

I used to work at the Child Protection Agency at DCYF [Division of Children, Youth and Families]. For me, I wanted to move forward with a law enforcement career. I did investigation work for abuse and neglect cases. The assessment team investigates all allegations of abuse and neglect that come into the state. To me, it felt like a natural transition to become an officer.

Have you worked your whole career in juvenile crimes?

I worked for DCYF from May 2006 until November 2008, when I became a police officer. I started my career as a patrolman in Hopkinton. In November 2010 I proudly joined the Manchester Police Department. I started in Manchester as a patrolman working in one of the east side inner city routes. In October 2012 I was assigned to the Juvenile Division as a detective.

Were you involved with law enforcement as a kid?

No, not growing up. I got a bachelor's degree in social work. ... Through my studies, abuse and neglect piqued my interest and made me realize that's what I wanted to do.

What made you want to work with kids?

I think initially, becoming a social worker you know you're going to work with people. When I got involved with DCYF, that population is extremely high risk. To me, it was eye-opening [to see] all the crimes [that] are perpetrated against children. When I started this work it was very rewarding, and that's what has kept me working on this path.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

I think it's being able to make an impact on a victim of sexual assault or abuse. To help give them the feeling that their cries for help

Five favorites

Favorite book: Stephen King's *Pet Sematary*.

Favorite movie: I don't really watch many movies. *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Favorite band: Dave Matthews Band.

Favorite food: Lobster.

Favorite thing about NH: The seasons, the opportunities to get outdoors here.



Courtesy photo

were heard, and the impact of my investigation will ensure this crime will not happen to them again, or anyone else, at the hands of this perpetrator.

How does it feel to be honored by the Child Advocacy Center?

The CAC is basically run by the Granite State Children's Alliance, which was developed to help law enforcement and the general public to understand abuse. To be honored by that agency is extremely humbling. I just do the best I can every day. There were a lot of members of the team that could have been honored — it's not just me that investigates the issues. We investigate these as a multidisciplinary team which consists of law enforcement, the County Attorney's office and DCYF.

How has your experience with CAC changed you?

It's definitely in the way that it changes your approach to these investigations. The most effective way is speaking with kids and getting a clear cut idea of what happened in these incidences. If it's changed me, it's shown this protocol works, this team works, and we can approach it this way throughout the state.

What is the value of CAC?

For the victims and investigation, it's priceless because it brings together the multidisciplinary team. It's shown me time and time again that we get the information that we need to move forward with these investigations, and to make sure these incidents don't happen again.

What is the hardest part about your job?

Having to see the impact on the victims. Having to see that day in and day out. How one brief moment of their life can have a such a profound impact, a life-changing, life-altering impact.

Can you see yourself doing anything else?

At the moment, no. This is what I have a passion in. — *Josh Rosenson*

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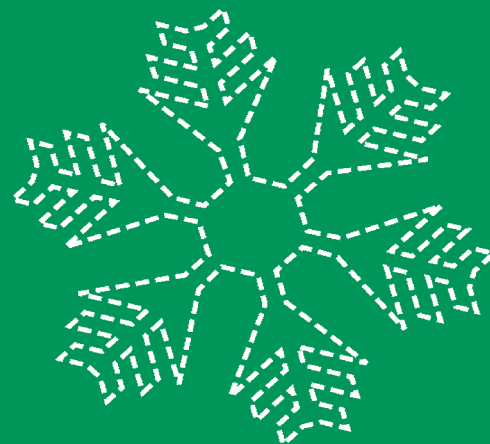
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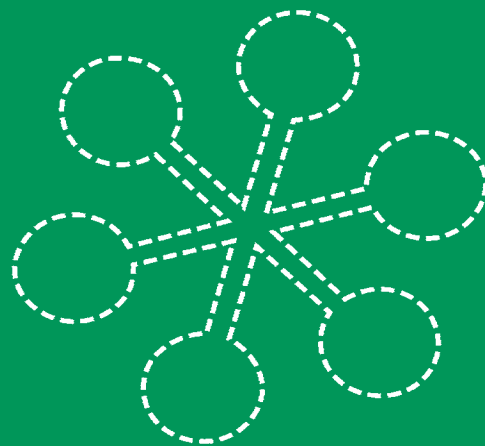
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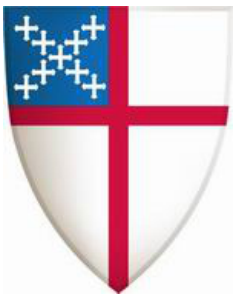
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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Toy thieves on the loose

There's a Grinch-like character on the loose in New Hampshire — WMUR recently reported that a man was suspected of stealing \$1,000 worth of toys from a Rochester store. When an employee confronted the man, he jumped into a nearby SUV and was driven away. Last week, there was also a toy theft way further north in Whitefield, according to a different WMUR report. A thief broke into the rectory at St. Matthew's Church, tore through gifts meant for needy families and took valuable items, forcing volunteers to work overtime to replace them.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *On the other end, best said by Dr. Seuss in How the Grinch Stole Christmas: "What if Christmas," he thought, "Doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."*

Restored in time for Christmas

The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Manchester received an interior make-over, according to a Union Leader article. The restoration is reflective of the pre-1969 look of the church, before the colorful insides were coated with beige paint. A wooden reredos has been salvaged from a South Boston Church, installed where the original stood, and stations of the cross from that same church now hang on the cathedral walls. Painters have re-added an ocean blue color to the ceiling, shades of rose and gold to the moldings and a faux marble pattern to the church columns. Work has been going on for three months, according to the article, with paintings, repairs and installations costing about \$250,000 thus far. Further renovations will include elevators, new restrooms and a repainting of the interior.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *Check out a concert at the cathedral Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m., with choral arrangements sung by Diocesan Festival Choir and Cathedral Parish Choir.*

WZID comes up big for kids

Over \$188,000 was raised during WZID's two-day, 16th Annual Christmas is for Kids Radiothon. The radiothon, presented by Fair-Point, "was a record breaking success," according to a news release. The fundraiser is put on to benefit the private nonprofit Child and Family Services of New Hampshire, with the goal of fulfilling the holiday wishes of children, plus supporting the ongoing critical services for children and families across the state.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *Christmas is for Kids had over 70 volunteers and participation from local political figures and comedian and New Hampshire native Sarah Silverman.*

Building On Hope

Non-profit organizations have been getting a helping hand since 2009, to the tune of \$800,000 in renovations to their structures. Building On Hope, a volunteer organization that partners with architects and other people who work in the building industry, is accepting applications for its 2016 signature project. In 2010 Building On Hope completed a \$250,000 renovation of The Krol House, a 1930s structure, home to the Easter Seals.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *What's better than a nonprofit helping other nonprofits?*

QOL score: 81

Net change: +2

QOL this week: 83

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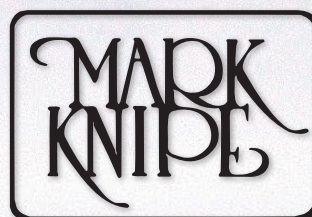
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More moves to make for Red Sox

Well, that didn't work out quite like they planned. Or did it? There is no doubt that by offering **Jon Lester** \$135 million the overly PR-conscious Red Sox

brass were serious in their intentions to get Lester in the end. But I wonder if their \$70 million spring training offer, thought far and wide to be a bungled maneuver, was really a statement saying that we want you back, but only on our terms. I mean even the biggest nitwit knows that would never get it done given the market set for top-line pitchers the last few years.

The loss of Lester to what could be a deal north of \$175 million if he hits his vesting option had the added sting of old friend **Theo Epstein** being the victor over the club that let him walk to be president of baseball ops with the Cubs. All of which opened the floodgates to the typical over-the-top reaction from Red Sox Nation and usual suspects in the media, which put the loss of Lester somewhere between Fenway Park burning down and a real catastrophe like **Bill Belichick** leaving New England to become HC of the NYJs.

I like Lester, I know not getting him leaves a void and I send him off with a pat on the back for a job (mostly) well done. But here's my question: If he's so indispensable, why did they finish in last place in 2012 and reside there when he was traded in July? The answer: To win you have to have a complete team, and putting too much money into one guy makes that harder. In this case, it's putting together a complete pitching staff — which was in shambles at the end of 2014. Going too far on Lester threatened that. And given the quick strike that followed, it showed a plan was in place after the bidding went past the numbers they thought matched his value.

So what's done is done; now let's look at the ramifications of these decisions.

Most Idiotic Statement: Since it's the holidays I should use a kinder phrase. For those who read the Boston Globe it probably won't come as a surprise that this one came from anti-Red Sox management columnist **Dan Shaughnessy**. He compared losing Lester to losing Babe Ruth! I'm not kidding; he actually said that. "Epic" screw-up is what he called it; I bet that's the same phrase he used when **Harry Sind** traded **Phil Esposito** for two scrubs named **Jean Ratelle** and **Brad Park**.

The Moves That Followed: True, they don't have an ace, but which is a better way to spend when you take into account they needed *three* starters and not just an ace? If you go by his average salary, Lester will cost \$25.3 million by himself in 2015, while the combined cost of new guys **Wade Miley** (\$5.3 million), **Ricky Porcello** (\$12 million) and **Justin Masterson** (\$9 million) will be \$26.3 million. Which amount will yield more wins? It also provides more to spend on the bullpen, which needs help. Or, with a host of potential free-agent top-tier guys available next year, they can save it like **Dan Duquette** did to get Pedro after **Roger Clemens** walked in 1996.

The Rotation: Big surprise: Radio gas bag **Michael Felger** says the rotation is "awful" — which of course it's not. I wouldn't call it great, but it offers more promise than the rotation going into 2013, which was (1) **Jon Lester** — 8-14 in 2012 when the ERA was 4.83, which followed a horrible September during the 2011 collapse and being a prime culprit in the chicken and beer fiasco; (2) **Clay Buchholz** — in 2012 he had career highs in starts and innings, with 29 and 189.1, but the ERA was 4.56; (3) **John Lackey**, who missed 2012 thanks to **Tommy John** surgery after two terrible seasons in Boston so no one knew what they'd get, and there was also the small factor he was still deeply hated by Red Sox Nation; (4) **Ryan**

Dempster, a \$14 million free agent totally mocked by most with lifetime marks of 124-124 and 4.36, and (5) **Felix Doubront**, a habitually out-of-shape lefty who never delivered on his promise beyond an occasional glimpse. So it was hardly a well-thought-of crew, and all the 2013 Red Sox did with that group was win the World Series.

While the current group has questions, mostly relating to injury, it stacks up to the just-mentioned guys going into 2013. Assuming Masterson returns to form, I'll take him and **Joe Kelly** over Dempster and Doubront at 4 and 5. At 26, Porcello is entering his prime, durable and on a rising career curve, so he's at least comparable to 2013 Buchholz, while expectations for Miley are a lot higher than they were for Lackey. The biggest is Buchholz as the current No. 1 guy. He was bad for most of 2014, though better in September. But who says he's staying? He could be the one who goes if the right deal surfaces for a better alternative at the top of the rotation.

Did Theo Epstein Win the Battle? First, after finishing in last place three years in a row, if it happened again, Theo could have gotten fired. Thus there's a desperation factor. Second, his team is loaded with low-salaried (supposedly) up and comers, so putting a larger percentage of the payroll into one guy isn't as big a deal for the next few years. But, while I don't want to pick on Theo, of his free agents **Julio Lugo**, **J.D. Drew**, **Dice-K**, **John Lackey**, **Carl Crawford**, **Adrian Gonzalez**, **John Smoltz**, **Marco Scutaro** and **Mike Cameron**, how many lived the giant contracts they got? Throw in **Josh Beckett's** second extension and how all-in he was on Cuban defector **Jose Contreras** and the track record is abysmal.

So time will tell on the Lester winner and the moves that followed.

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The U moves to semifinals

The Big Story: It was a day of firsts for UNH football last Friday night. Their 35-30 win over Chattanooga sent them to the semifinal of the NCAA National Football tournament for the first time in school history. It also gave them their first 12-win season and extended their school-record winning streak to 12 games. And while all of that is great, the real excitement is that the top-ranked I-AA team in the country is now just two wins away from winning the national championship. They advanced despite giving up 552 total yards to the Mocs, while recording only 329 yards. And they did it in exciting fashion, rallying from down 24-21 on a 6-yard TD by **Nico Steriti** and on a 61-yard TD **Sean Goldrich** to **RJ Harris** hook-up off a flea-flicker with 8 minutes remaining.

Sports 101: No Celtics player has ever won an NBA scoring title, but six players who did later became Celtics. Name them.

Hot Ticket: It's the NCAA semifinal matchup on Saturday, Dec. 20, in Durham at 2 p.m. between the U and fifth-ranked Illinois, who advanced by virtue of a low-

scoring 59-46 win over fourth-ranked Eastern Washington. If you can't make it the match-up of 12-1 clubs, it will be seen nationally on ESPN.

False Local Rumor of the Week: It was chatter that ex-Central quarterback **Chip Kelly** was going to dump his job with the Philadelphia Eagles to head south for the vacant head coaching job at the University of Florida. It ended when Colorado State coach **Jim McElwain** was hired at the start of the week.

Sports 101 Answer: The six scoring champs to later play for the Celtics are **Dave Bing**, **Tiny Archibald**, **Bob McAdoo**, **Pete Maravich**, **Dominique Wilkins** and **Shaq**.

On This Date – Dec. 18: 1961 - Wilt Chamberlain scores then NBA record 78 points vs L.A. **1994 - Darryl Strawberry** pleads not guilty on tax evasion charges. **Born: 1886 - Ty Cobb**, Detroit Tigers great from baseball's early days. **Died: 1971 - Bobby Jones**, who won golf's original grand slam in 1930 by winning the U.S. Open, British Open, U.S. Amateur and British Amateur. ☁

The Numbers

4 – TDs accounted for by UNH quarterback QB **Sean Goldrich**, who ran one in from 228 yards out and threw for three more in the Wildcats' 35-30 NCAA Tournament win over Chattanooga.

7 – wins against one loss for the Saint Anselm men after rolling over Stonehill 78-57 after a big 47-26 second-half run when **Mike McCahey** had 14 of his 22 points, which was second high to **Chris**

Santos' 25-point night.

12 – blocks by **Anguie Ngalakulondui** for Central in their 45-32 opening day win when **Sydney Richard** was high for the Green with 11 points.

14 – penalties in the first eight games **Brandon Browner** has played as a Patriot after the yellow flag waiting to happen got three more in their 41-13 win over Miami on Sunday.

18.5 – points per game

averaged by SNHU guard **Rodney Sanders** during the Penmen's 6-2 start after scoring 20 and 28 in back-to-back wins over Stonehill and Assumption.

30 – points scored by **McKennah Grisson** in leading Memorial to a 53-41 win over Nashua South.

172 – receiving yards by UNH wideout **RJ Harris** to go along with two TDs in the U's wild win over Chattanooga on Friday. ☁

Sports Glossary

The Phil Esposito Trade: Stunning 1975 trade of Bruins icon **Phil Esposito** to the Rangers that elicited cries of "I can't believe that bleeping **Harry Sinden** did that!" But, while it sent an A+-level player out, it brought back A level players and eventual Hall of Famers — classy center **Jean Ratelle** and defenseman **Brad Park**. And despite his prolific scoring past, the beloved Espo was outscored by Ratelle 450 to 404 in the five-plus seasons each spent with their new team, plus they got the game's second-best defensemen, behind **Bobby Orr**.

Brad Park: Nine-time All-Star who came in to Boston after having just published a book that off-season saying he hated the Bs while trashing them from pillar to post.

Jose Contreras: Supposed superstar Cuban hurler **Theo Epstein** allegedly trashed his hotel room over after losing out to New York in a high-stakes free agent battle. For the \$60 million price tag the Yanks got 15 lousy wins before dumping him less than two years later.

Scott Cooper-Jeff Bagwell Conundrum: The numbers on third base prospect options when Sox GM **Lou Gorman** sent **Jeff Bagwell** instead of **Scott Cooper** to Houston in a 1990 pennant race deal. Bagwell: AA, 134 games, 34 doubles, 4 homers, 61 RBI, .333 average. Cooper: two years in AAA, 38 doubles, 27 homers, 116 RBI, .272 average; in AA season, 24 doubles, 7 homers, 39 RBI, .247 average.



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PARTY

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How to throw a laid-back, last-minute holiday get-together



You're having a party, and you want to be the host with the most — but you also have a to-do list that's as long as Santa's naughty list. So how do you throw a party to remember with limited time and energy? The Hippo has suggestions

for simple decorations, easy food and drink ideas and music and games that will keep guests happy and having fun. So if you want to throw the party of the year without a lot of stress, check out these tips from local pros — and then, party on. 🌲

Adorn with ease

Decorate for your holiday party sans stress

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com



Deck your halls with boughs of holly, Santa figurines or glittery paper snowflakes. No matter the size or style, you can put together a fun and easy holiday party with these tips, tricks and theme ideas.

Why decorate?

Whether you're hosting a holiday open house for 50 guests or a small gathering for five friends, decorations are a holiday party must. Laurie Mantegari of Everyday Details in Hampton said that decorations make things festive.

"It changes the atmosphere and gives it an ambience," she said.

Leslye Amico of Affordable Occasions, a local event planning company, agreed. She said that decorations set the tone of a party. "It creates the look, it creates a feel ... it gives [people] something to talk about, somewhere to start," she said.

Get this party started

Amico suggested walking through a party supply store or department store to find something that inspires you.

"It could be Father Christmas, it could be holly, it could be nutcrackers, it could be [the color] gold," Amico said in a phone interview. "Build off of that one thing and go from there."

Once inspiration has struck, shopping and preparing will become much easier. You can start gathering hanging decorations and tabletop items to fill out your theme. Just remember the cardinal rule of easy party prep: less is more.

"You don't always have to cover every corner of every room so that all you see is red and gold," Mantegari said in a phone interview. "You want to kind of figure out what colors you like and what blends nicely with the room and how you can carry it through."

Colors to theme about

One easy way to carry decorations through a house is with color. Pair the traditional red or green with gold and silver accents to get a classic Christmas feel. Mantegari recommended choosing warm (red) or cool (green) as your primary par-



ty color based on the color of your walls. For example, if you have off-white or taupe walls, Mantegari suggested a warm color palette.

If you want to branch out with a more modern flair, get traditional items like ornaments and candle holders, but in vibrant colors.

"They have lime green and turquoise and pink and sparkling and it's all in Christmas decorating, [but] not traditional," Amico said.

Embrace a snowy theme and fill your space with gold, silver, and white, which is one of Amico's favorites.

"I love a winter wonderland personally, [with] trees or branches with fake

snow on them, snowflakes and floating white candles, kind of airy and earthy," she said.

You could also do simply sparkly and have paper snowflakes, solid silvers and blues, and crystal or glittery accents. Any winter wonderland theme is a good idea when hosting a non-denominational holiday party so those who celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or Festivus can all take part.

Use what you already have

Repurposing everyday household items into decorations is an easy way to dress up a space without spending much money or time.

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Mantegari said. "It's just [about] having a vision."

Household goods: Turn a wine glass upside down and put a candle on the bottom end of the stem to add a touch of elegance. If you have a wooden cutting board, use it as a platter for appetizers. Add some greenery or loose ornaments around the edge of the board and you've created a serving dish that doubles as a centerpiece. A cake platter with a pedestal can hold assorted cookies or act as a stand for your favorite Santa figurine. Look through your dishware for small plates or bowls to make a votive candle holder. Dress them up by lining the candles with a ribbon in your theme color. You can even write Christmas tidings on the ribbons.

Holiday trinkets: Many homes have a surplus of holiday trinkets, gathered over the years, to choose from. Nutcrackers, lighted trees, and tiny reindeer are all fair game. If you decide to use your family decorations, make sure to go with solid colors for plates and napkins so your pieces don't get lost in a sea of patterns. Amico cautioned that just because they may all be red and green doesn't mean they complement each other.

"The idea that Christmas goes with Christmas doesn't always apply," she said.

Make sure that all of your favorite trinkets are included by spreading decorations throughout the rooms guests will be in. That way, you can have a colorful kitchen, dining room, seating area, and bathroom without visually bombarding your friends and family with Christmas cheer.

All natural: Take your theme from outdoors to indoors by using items you can find for free in your backyard. Pick up tree branches and pinecones and dip them in paint to display on your table. Go one step more and turn the painted pinecones into ornaments as party favors for your guests. (Amico said this would be a fun craft to get the kids involved). You can take the natural feel further and put red and green apples or oranges, cranberries and chestnuts in a glass bowl or cylinder for a centerpiece.

Get crafty: As a final touch, make the night a little fancy by adding your decorating prowess to the meal. Cut out cardstock that matches the theme colors and make labels for each dish. If you're having a sit-down meal, put handwritten place cards and a painted pinecone at each setting. Place ribbon, confetti or a dusting of glitter on the table for a final pop of decadence. ❄️

Impress your guests with a simple feast

Self-serve buffet and bar make party planning easy

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



Make your party food and drink decisions easy: just let your guests help themselves. Set up a buffet or lay out a variety of fingerfoods and platters so your guests can help themselves to whatever they want, whenever they want.

"People are moving around, so you want

to have buffet style or just put out platters," said Jerry Lipet of Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop in Manchester. "This way they can keep picking at food the whole time they're there."

"I always say plan ahead. Don't wait until the last minute," said Craig Muccini, general manager of the Flying Butcher in Amherst. "Make sure you have plenty of food and plenty of wine. ... Don't overwork yourself. Your guests want you to have a good time, too."

Planning the menu

When setting up a buffet or table of hors d'oeuvres and platters for guests to serve themselves, Lipet emphasizes variety is key.

"You want your table to be colorful and festive looking," he said.

Lipet said customers often come to Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop this time of year with questions on how to feed hungry guests, from what to serve to how much to prepare. Angela's and other markets offer catering and platters to order in advance, which makes it as easy as calling, picking up and serving. Cheese boards and antipasto platters are always popular choices for any holiday party.

"It saves them a lot of the preparation time," Lipet said. "People come in and they're looking for ideas, like they want to have their own appetizer combinations."

Lipet recommends serving a veggie platter in addition to cheese, crackers and antipasto. Then impress your guests with hot appetizers like scallops wrapped in bacon or mini reuben sandwiches. To keep them hot, place those appetizers in a chafing dish.

For cocktail parties or hors d'oeuvres, Muccini recommends putting a twist on a

traditional Christmas dinner entree.

"Tenderloin roasts are always popular for Christmas, but for the cocktail parties, people will serve a cold tenderloin roast on a cross-point with horseradish sauce," Muccini said.

For Christmas dinners, prime ribs are Muccini's number-one seller during the holidays.

"The days of ham and turkey seem not as popular," he said. "It doesn't get much easier than cooking a

nice roast for Christmas. ... Roasts are quicker than turkeys or hams. ... There's not much cooking involved; you just put it in the oven and roast."

While roasts are popular and simple to cook, Muccini comes from an Italian family, so this time of year, he often thinks about seafood

instead of meat.

"I like to start out with seafood," he said. "I like to leave red meat towards the end of the meal. ... If somebody's looking to have hors d'oeuvres ... oysters on the half-shell are easy. You can get them shucked ahead of time."

He also recommends haddock, mussels and scallops, as well as shrimp cocktail since it's a simple appetizer and always a crowd pleaser.

"You like to have the party reflect you

“It doesn't get much easier than cooking a nice roast for Christmas. ... Roasts are quicker than turkeys or hams.”

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Recipe created by Hippo Publisher Jody Reese — the most popular drink at the 2013 Hippo Holiday Party

750 ml bourbon (the better the bourbon, the better the drink)
750 ml green tea
3 lemon peels (full peel of lemon)

1 orange peel (full peel of orange)
Juice from 3 squeezed lemons
Juice from 1 squeezed orange
Sparkling ruby grapefruit juice

Fill 1/3 glass with ice. Add punch 1/3 from rim and top with sparkling ruby grapefruit juice.

Blueberry Basil Mojito

From Cotton Cocktails by Jeffrey and Peaches Paige

2 sprigs fresh basil
2 lemon wedges
1 teaspoon granulated sugar
2 ounces Cold River blueberry vodka
1 ounce Cointreau

2 ounces soda water
Fresh blueberries, to garnish

In a 10-ounce rocks glass, muddle the basil, lemon wedges and granulated sugar. Fill the glass with ice and add the vodka and Cointreau, then top with soda water. Stir with straw to mix. Garnish with fresh blueberries.

Sailor Jerry's Rumrunner

From Cotton Cocktails by Jeffrey and Peaches Paige

2 ounces Sailor Jerry spiced rum
1/2 ounce Dekuyper banana liqueur
1/2 ounce pineapple juice

1 ounce coconut water
1 ounce orange juice
1/4 ounce grenadine

Using a Boston shaker, fill the pint glass with ice, add all ingredients, and shake vigorously. Pour into pint glass. No garnish needed.

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as the individual," Lipet said. "Whatever foods you choose, you want it to reflect your personality."

Bar service

You can make beverages self-serve, too. Make a punch or set up a bar area with sodas, liquor, wine and beer.

"A red sangria is great because it's fruity it's festive," said Peaches Paige of Cotton Restaurant in Manchester. "You can make it red or white, I would think in the winter for the holidays you could make red. But you can make both, and you can do that, just have a red and a white sangria, which is always nice for wine, and just have beer."

Cotton released a cocktail cookbook written by Jeffrey and Peaches Paige last

winter. Peaches Paige recommends preparing a cocktail recipe in bulk (like a punch or serve in a pitcher). Sailor Jerry's Rum Runner makes a good fruity punch, she said, and is great in a larger batch. The Blueberry Basil Mojito is easy and sure to impress.

If you trust your guests to make their own drinks, Paige recommends keeping your bar stocked with the basics: lemon and lime juice, soda water, tequila, rum and gin. Keep nonalcoholic drinks at the bar for designated drivers, and be sure to have a variety (a couple white wines, a couple red).

You can also stay festive by setting up a Keurig machine with apple cider and hot cocoa, peppermint schnapps, vodka, Bailey's and whipped cream.

And, "There's always the eggnog," Paige said. 🍷

Entertainment value

How to keep the crowds having fun

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



Decorations, themes, food and drink — all these things are pretty essential for a good holiday party. But if you really want your guests to stay, you need to give them a good reason.

"You want people to stay and have a good time," said Mike Koutrobis, a New Hampshire DJ and comedian. "A lot of times, people are going to parties out of obligations. They have dinner, say hi and fade away. If you do something to make the party last longer, the more people will stay and the more fun it's going to be."

The Hippo talked with Koutrobis, event planner Emily St. Pierre and DJ Joey Dion about how to keep your guests entertained from start to end with music, games and entertainment.

In the mood with music

Even if there's no dancing at your party, you've got to have music to heighten the holiday mood. But choosing the right tunes, said Dion, founder of Londonderry's Main Event Entertainment, can be difficult.

"There are so many different genres and tastes out there," Dion said. "If possible, play music that casts a wide net. Make as many people at the party comfortable and happy [as possible]. ... When you go to a party, you want to have fun, and music will motivate a crowd to do that."

Choose songs by current artists' Christmas albums in all genres. Dion says people constantly ask for Michael Buble but still appreciate old-school renditions by Nat King Cole, Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley.

How can you tell if your guests are enjoying it? Look to see if people are tapping their toes or moving to the 20 ▶

HOLIDAY PARTY ACTIVITIES



Yankee Swap: There are many versions to this game. Make sure guests know about it ahead of time. Any number of people can play, just so long as they've brought a gift that costs no more than the previously agreed-upon amount. Draw numbers from a hat to determine swap order. The person with the No. 1 will choose from the tree first, No. 2 goes second, etc. The person opening the gift will show it to the rest of the company, and may choose either to keep that gift or trade with someone with a lower number. Often, the person with a No. 1 will have the last pick.

White Elephant: This game is like a Yankee Swap, but these gifts are generally extremely tacky or don't fit the tastes of the recipient.

Holiday trivia: Create your own pub trivia night, but make the questions fit the holidays.

Holiday karaoke: St. Pierre's idea; maybe your kid's video game has a holiday rendition, but if you look on YouTube, there exist a number of holiday songs presented in karaoke style, with background music and lyrics that light up as you sing them. "All I Want for Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Where Are You Christmas," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Blue Christmas," etc., are all accounted for. Blast this up on your computer or TV and add a mike.

Scavenger hunt: Koutrobis says these are great for all sorts of parties — corporate gatherings, large parties, intimate parties — though they work best when prizes are involved. Create different teams and create a list of items each team needs to find. These could include general things — a lighter, a napkin, something red — or holiday items, like holiday jewelry, a Santa hat, a bell, etc. First team to come up with all of the items wins.

Holiday fishbowl: Without the holiday theme, this game is called Salad Bowl, Bowl of Nouns, Fishbowl, etc. All you need is a bowl, pen, paper and a group of people. Have each participant write a word or phrase that has to do with the holidays on different slips of paper and stick them in the bowl. Split everyone into two teams.

The first round is like Taboo. Each team will be given 30 seconds. The person "up" will describe the item on the slip of paper without saying it. Once teammates guess, the bowl is passed to other teammates, who will describe the items and guess until the time is up. However many words/phrases the team guessed during that 30-second period is how many points earned that round. These 30-second rounds will alternate between teams until all the slips of paper are gone.

The second round is like the first, except the words are acted out instead of described. (This will be easier because everybody has heard the words.) Teams have 30 seconds, and normally someone on the other team will time.

During the third round, the person "up" must describe what's on the paper with one word that is not the word on the paper; again, everyone has heard what's on the paper twice now, so it's easier. Alternate between teams, tally up points, and make sure each team has gone an even number of times. Highest score wins.

Holiday movies: Tape or drape a Santa hat on the top corner of your TV screen and watch a movie (holiday-related or not). Every time the hat lines up with a person's head, take a drink.

Holiday races: Split into teams; who can fill stockings with Christmas candy the fastest? Who can wrap an assembly of boxes with holiday paper the fastest or decorate a Christmas tree with an assortment of items, or wrap someone up as a snowman with toilet paper the quickest?



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◀ 18 music. And look to your guests' reactions when you start a song; Dion calls this something of a DJ Jedi mind trick.

"When DJs first start a song, they throw a glance out at the room. People will look at you [the DJ] when they like the song you're playing," he said.

When in doubt, cast throwbacks. Think about what the big bands were when your guests were growing up, and find those Christmas albums.

"When you have a group of adults, go the more nostalgic route. It's going to bring up childhood memories," said St. Pierre, who runs the Concord-based event planning company All the Fuss Events. "I grew up in the late '80s and early '90s, and whenever I hear the New Kids on the Block holiday mix, oh my gosh, it reminds me of when I was 7. ... Most popular bands have a Christmas album, and it's just about tracking down those Christmas songs people haven't heard in a long time."

Games and entertainment

"When you're planning a party, you want elements people are going to remember. There's decor, food and beverages. ... But the parties people are going to remember are the ones they laugh and have a good experience at. You can have flowers on the table, but if it's boring, they're going to go home," St. Pierre said.

When she's planning parties, St. Pierre considers what guests might have gone through in order to attend — did they make a long drive? Did they hire a babysitter?

"Play games, adult games maybe people haven't played in a while. Something like trivia or something more current, like Cards Against Humanity, which is a big trend in fun party games," St. Pierre said.

Games act as icebreakers and allow for easier interaction between guests who don't know each other.

Many holiday-specific games exist, but you can also add a holiday twist to traditional ones. (Our box here provides a few ideas, but for more, Google will not disappoint.)

Want to make certain your guests will actually want to get involved? Add prizes into the mix.

"Everybody wants something for free. If you want something decent, you're going to get someone to [play the games]," Koutrobis said.

Gift certificates are king, and of those, Koutrobis says Dunkin' Donuts, Apple and Visa gift cards are best. Give the best prizes out at the end.

"You don't want to do everything right off the bat or people will leave. You want to stretch it out," Koutrobis said. "If you're giving away the big present at 10 p.m., people will be like, 'Aw crap, I can't leave before 10 p.m. now.'" 🍷

Holiday playlist: Hippo staff favorites



Hippo staff shared the holiday tunes they'd want to hear at a party.

- "Hard Candy Christmas" by Dolly Parton (Ashley McCarty)
- "Last Christmas" by Wham! (Ashley McCarty)
- "Christmas Waltz" by The Carpenters (Ashley McCarty)
- "Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Brian Setzer Orchestra (Kristin Crawford Rehm)
- "Christmas in Hollis" by Run D.M.C. (Kristin Crawford Rehm, Roxanne Macaig)
- "Santa, Baby" by Madonna (Kristin Crawford Rehm)
- "Our Lawyer Made Us Change the Name of this Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued" by Fall Out Boy (Joshua Rosenson)
- "Snoopy's Christmas" by The Royal Guardsmen (Allie Ginwala)
- "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" by Barenaked Ladies and Sarah McLachlan (Allie Ginwala)
- "Dominick the Donkey" by Lou Monte (Allie Ginwala)
- "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" by Gayla Peevey (Doug Ladd)
- "Christmas is the Time to Say 'I Love You'" by Billy Squier (Charlene Cesarini)
- "Christmas Wrapping" by The Waitresses (Charlene Cesarini)
- "It Must Have Been the Mistletoe" by Barbara Mandrell (Charlene Cesarini)
- "This Christmas" by Macy Gray (Charlene Cesarini)
- "Feliz Navidad" by Jose Feliciano (Charlene Cesarini)
- "Christmas Song" by Mannheim Steamroller (Charlene Cesarini)
- "Merry Christmas, Darling" by The Carpenters (Charlene Cesarini)
- "Blue Christmas" by Elvis (Charlene Cesarini)
- "O Holy Night" featuring Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews (Michael Witthaus)
- "The Rebel Jesus" by Jackson Browne (Michael Witthaus)
- "Winter Wonderland" by Darlene Love (Michael Witthaus)
- "River" by Joni Mitchell (Michael Witthaus)
- "Father Christmas" by The Kinks (Kenny Duquet)
- "Reindeer" by The Knife (Kenny Duquet)
- "Blue Christmas" by Bright Eyes (Kenny Duquet)
- "Soulful Christmas" by James Brown (Roxanne Macaig)
- "A Great Big Sled" by The Killers (Roxanne Macaig)
- "Don't Shoot Me, Santa" by The Killers (Roxanne Macaig)
- "Christmas at the Zoo" by Flaming Lips (Roxanne Macaig)



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EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 18 - 24, 2014, AND BEYOND



Thursday, Dec. 18

There's still a lot of *Nutcracker* left in the season. The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents its version of *The Nutcracker* on Friday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord (call 668-5330 or email reinert@comcast.net). Gate City Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* at the Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 and 6 p.m. (call 437-5210, visit gatecityballet.com). The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, will host *An 1836 Portsmouth Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 and 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2:30 p.m. as well as shorter "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" performances on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m., and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 11:30 a.m. (themusichall.org).

Eat: Homemade Italian dishes

Learn to make risotto, cappellacci, pizza and lasagne from the pros at a **cooking class with a dinner** at Tuscan Market (63 Main St. in Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.eventbrite.com). The class and dinner events will be held on Mondays in January at 6 p.m.: risotto on Jan. 5, cappellacci (a stuffed pasta) on Jan. 12, pizza on Jan. 19 and lasagne on Jan. 26. Each class costs \$125. Call for reservations.

Drink: Beer with your holiday meal

Top Shelf Brews, (826 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-2894, topshelfbrewsstore.com) will hold a **holiday beer tasting** on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.



Friday, Dec. 19

It's another late-year, **big movie weekend** but finally there are two new options for those seeking a new movie for a PG audience. *Annie*, a remake of the musical starring Jamie Foxx and Quvenzhané Willis, and *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*, a third movie in the trilogy starring Ben Stiller as a museum guard for exhibits that come to life, open in wide release today. Also hitting screens this week: *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies* (which opened Wednesday, Dec. 17).



Saturday, Dec. 20

Help support Bishop Brady students and Habitat for Humanity at the **Snow Globe Trotter** 4 Miler today at 11 a.m. at Bishop Brady High School, 25 Columbus Ave., Concord. Register at g2racereg.webconnex.com/snowglobe4m14. Contact Susan Seagroves, 224-7418, sseagroves@bishopbrady.edu.



Saturday, Dec. 20

Experience a **Victorian Christmas** at the New Hampshire Farm Museum (1305 White Mountain Hwy., Milton) today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the historic Jones Farmhouse with costumed role players, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride, roast chestnuts over an open fire, munch on gingerbread, and drink hot cider. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Call 652-7840 or see farmmuseum.org.



Sunday, Dec. 21

Celebrate the festival of lights (which began at sunset on Dec. 16) with **Chanukah at the Palace**, a show featuring comedian Todd Oliver, the acapella group The Pella Singers and more today at 6:30 p.m., at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$20; call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

Be merry: With Best Not Broken

If previous years are an indication, Saturday, Dec. 20, will be one of the (if not the) biggest shopping day of the year. If you have still have gifts to by and lists to check twice, unwind after a day of hustle and bustle with some live music. The band **Best Not Broken** will take the spotlight at Murphy's Taproom (494 Elm St. in Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.net) at 9:30 p.m. Find more live music on Saturday night or any night you need to get out in the Music this Week, which stars this week on page 70.

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IMAGE LEFT: M.C. Escher, *Drawing Hands*, 1948, lithograph. IMAGE TOP RIGHT: M.C. Escher, *Waterfall*, 1961, lithograph. IMAGE BOTTOM RIGHT: M.C. Escher, *A/R*, 1952, woodcut. All images © 2014 The M.C. Escher Company-The Netherlands. All rights reserved. www.mcescher.com

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Where in the world is Rockapella?

Carmen Sandiego house band returns for its Stockbridge tradition

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

While known to many as the house band for the hit '90s PBS show, *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?*, Rockapella has become a Christmas mainstay at the Stockbridge Theatre in Derry.

The five-man powerhouse — made up of Scott Leonard, Jeff Thacher, George Baldi, Steven Dorian and Calvin Jones — performs its now annual holiday show Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.

"It's all holiday music, though we can't get away with not doing 'Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego,'" said Leonard, who's been with the group since 1991 and acts as its chief songwriter and arranger. "People like coming to hear the songs they know and love. ... They have lots of emotional attachments to those. But then when they hear Rockapella put its Rockapella edge on those songs, it's a unique experience."

In some circles, Rockapella is credited as the one that started it all — a cappella (defined "without instrumental accompaniment") wasn't mainstream back in the 1980s, when members of a Brown University a cappella group created Rockapella. That smaller group performed in New York City for a number of years until 1991, when Leonard joined the band and the PBS Kids



Rockapella. Courtesy photo.

show picked them up. Thacher, who still sings with Rockapella, joined in 1993 and became the band's permanent voice percussionist — or beatboxer — which was revolutionary to the a cappella scene.

They had no idea their simple change to the medium — adding a beatboxer and performing contemporary tunes rather than traditional barbershop harmony — would be the start of a new craze.

"I thought I'd be doing this maybe for two years," Leonard said. "When we first started, colleges had a cappella groups, but it was not at all popular. Now, every single college has multiple groups, and it's wild. It's all around the world."

At the beginning, Leonard says, it was hard to break out of the kids' TV show mold in the States. He used leverage with connections to the Japanese music market to acquire a recording contract. Rockapella

was bigger over there.

"We were literally the first contemporary group in Japan, and we had this kind of simultaneous career over there. While we were doing *Carmen* here, we couldn't get anyone to take us seriously, and we had to get exposure through the back door," Leonard said.

Group members have come and gone throughout the years — he and Thatcher have been with Rockapella the longest of the guys — but when they look to replace a member, Rockapella often looks to Disney, who scours the country to get the best talent. Those singers, Leonard said, are used to performing several shows a day for 5 or 500 people and really know how to work an audience.

But Leonard also differentiates Rockapella from singing groups in *Glee*, *The Sing-Off* and *Pitch Perfect*.

"Rockapella is more like a band," Leonard said. "Most a cappella groups perform popular covers of songs, but Rockapella has always stressed original songs and original music. ... If it's going to be a cover, it really needs to be original. You need to make it earn its right to exist on its own. ... I think the things that make Rockapella still viable today are its original arrangements and unmatched talent. This is a group of guys who each in their own right can stand on stage on his own."

And for a cappella to really become mainstream, Leonard says that's what needs to happen. There aren't any original a cappella hits — all the a cappella songs that have made the Top 40 have been covers.

"I want to see an a cappella song besides 'Don't Worry, Be Happy,'" Leonard said.

For the holiday show, however, Rockapella does sing traditional songs. It's what audiences want. But these versions have quirkier arrangements than what listeners are used to.

"In the early days, there were three Jewish guys and me. There was not too much of an emotional attachment to the holiday. There were a couple of cute songs, but they were more corny. But we've really been able to fill the show up. There are lots of warm and funny ballads going on. It's not like a regular a cappella show — we've added a *Chipmunks* up-tempo song and some funky stuff that makes it more energetic," Leonard said.

They look forward to their visits to Derry; Leonard says it's like revisiting a friend every year.

"This is unusual, that we'll come to a small town every year," Leonard said. "We do so many places and venues, but when I step up onstage, it's very clear in my mind what the Derry experience is. It's fun to see the same people." 🍀

See Rockapella

Where: Stockbridge Theater, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.

Admission: Tickets range in price, \$10 to \$30

Contact: stockbridgetheatre.com, rockapella.com

24 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

Classical

• **SWEET, HOT & SASSY** performs at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, on Fri., Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general admission.

• **CATHEDRAL CONCERT: A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS** Fri., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, located at the corner of Pine and Lowell St., Manchester. Choral arrangements sung by Diocesan Festival Choir and Cathedral Parish Choir, \$15 suggested donation at the door. Call 622-

6404, ext. 31, ebermani@stjosephcathedral.org.

• **EVENING WITH ROCKAPPELLA** is Sun., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry. The holiday show will comprise unique takes on classic favorites and new originals by the five-man powerhouse that helped make a cappella what it is today. Tickets range from \$10 to \$30. Visit stockbridgetheatre.com or call 437-5210.

• **SERGEI NOVIKOV** concert at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, Sun., Dec.

27 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

21, at 7 p.m. Includes 12 styles of piano, including classical, jazz, Latin, Russian, folk, blues, polka, waltz, foxtrot, tango. Tickets \$32.

• **CAPITOL JAZZ ORCHESTRAS SMALL GROUP** presents a holiday pops variety show at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord, Sun., Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$35; call 225-1111. The group features some of the best jazz musicians in the world, including Ken Peplowski, Bucky Pizzarelli, Pete Barbutti, Ehud Asherie, Patty Barkas and CJ Poole.

• **FESTIVAL OF SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS** at Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell St., Manchester, Sun., Dec. 21, at 4 p.m., featuring readers, soloists, small ensembles and flutists drawn from the choir and the Parish. Music by Archer, Bach, Chilcott, Huston, Niles, Sjolund, Warlock and Willcocks. Call 622-9813.

• **WINDHAM COMMUNITY BANDS** concert Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m., at Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham, featuring flute ensemble, concert band and

29 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

swing band playing holiday music. Donation of \$5 requested at door, children and students get in free.

• **A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS** at the Press Room, 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, \$10 admission, heatherpierson.com, on Sun., Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. Performed by Heather Pierson Quartet.

• **MESSIAH SING!** a community concert with the best-loved area choruses and conductors, is at The Music Hall, 128 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, Mon., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. The event is an

opportunity for audience members to sing along; ticketholders can come at 6:30 p.m. for a rehearsal in the auditorium. Tickets are \$15 to \$17. Visit themusichall.org.

• **TUCKERMANS AT 9** a cappella concert Wed., Dec. 31, at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., at Anderson Hall, 205 S. Main St., Wolfeboro. Part of First Night, all admission available in advance for \$15 at wolfeboro-chamber.com. Visit tuckermansat9.com, facebook.com/Tuckermansat9.

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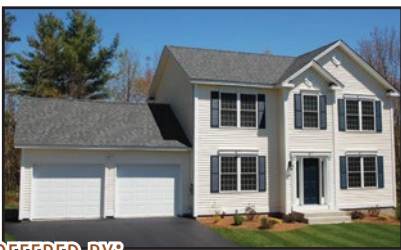


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ARTS

Coming home

Peacock Players young and old in Christmas Spectacular

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Peacock Players kids enjoy their time with the youth theater company so much, a good portion of alumni usually come back to sing for its Christmas Spectacular event.

Held every other year (alternating with Peacock's *A Christmas Carol*), the two-hour performance is more like a concert that resembles the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. Current Peacock Players students, resident artists, staff camp counselors and alumni come together and present a variety of holiday songs, from traditional classics to lesser-known numbers.

Artistic Director Keith Weirich calls it a revuesical.

"We've developed our own musical revue that will help pay homage to the sacred and secular carols, but there really is a wealth of really pretty Christmas music people don't get to hear very often," Weirich said in a phone interview. "Idina Menzel and Clay Aiken and new recording artists are writing [and singing] new Christmas music out there, stuff you don't always hear while you're shopping."

The songs are tied together with a loose concept. A large, naked Christmas tree sits at the center of the stage, and during each number, singers come out and add decorations.

The cast is humongous, made up of about 70 performers ranging in age from 5 to adult, but unlike in a musical, there aren't just a handful of featured voices.

"It's almost completely comprised of feature soloists," Weirich said. "It's really helping them from an educational standpoint. Nobody teaches you good microphone technique. ... There are hundreds of students who fill out the ensembles in shows who could absolutely be featured soloists because they have unique talents in their own right. This is a way to showcase a number of artists, and I like that we're not only hearing from the same group of kids."

Most of those solos will be performed in medleys.

"There's a secular medley, so we can cover all the different aspects of Christmas. Then there's a whole medley about coming home for the holidays — and in some cases, there



Children gather around the tree during a past Christmas Spectacular. Courtesy photo.

are literally people who will be stepping off the bus and coming to the theater to do the show," Weirich said.

One returning alumnus is Danny Shea, who studies acting at the University of Hartford. Another is Nate Healey, who also studies at Hartford. Both began performing with Peacock Players when very young, about 11 years old.

In fact, they performed in their first Spectacular together.

"We were 11 and sang an *Alvin and the Chipmunks* song," Shea said. "We brought helium balloons onstage that matched the color of our shirts."

Shea says a large portion of alumni usually decide to study theater after high school — of his Peacock Players class of 15, only about five majored in something else.

But students of all majors come back to perform; if they aren't at the concert, it's usually because they physically can't make it due to scheduling conflicts. The ones who do perform will be clad in their college swag.

"For me personally, I owe a lot of my training to Peacock. I feel like I owe it to younger generations to come back and share what I've learned," Shea said.

Weirich allows students to pitch songs they'd like to sing, which makes the production new each time. Most songs have a loose holiday theme — they have to do with winter, Christmas or Hanukkah, but some stand alone or tackle a theme about the holidays, like last year's "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*.

"It's very family-friendly — rated G for all audiences. It's funny and heartfelt. It runs the gamut," Weirich said. "I find it particularly inspiring because it's a lot of young voices. Christmas is really, I think, most accessible for the young, and it reminds us why we spend time together and why we give gifts, and the joy and magic of Christmas."

See the Peacock Players Christmas Spectacular

When: Friday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

Where: Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua

Admission: \$10 to \$17

Contact: 886-7000, peacockplayers.org

LOCAL — COLOR — NH art world news

• **At LaBelle Winery:** Art by Amy Brnger and John Bonner decorates LaBelle Winery now through Feb. 1. Their paintings are very different — Brnger's art reveals her "adroit application of paint," as described in the release, with subjects that range from still lifes to interiors to landscapes. Her canvases are thick, layered with paint, and very bright. Bonner, on the other hand, looks to the streets for inspiration. His paintings include Boston cityscapes, street scenes, art openings, rainy days and people waiting for the T in the snow. View the show at LaBelle, 345 Route 101, Amherst, or learn more by calling 672-9898, ext. 3, or visiting labellewinerynh.com.

• **New classes, nonprofit nominations:** The Studio 550 Art Center has a few additions and announcements for the 2015 season. The Manchester art center (located at 550 Elm St., Manchester, 550arts.com, 232-5597) is adding new art classes to the winter session, which starts Jan. 12. Core classes still include beginning pottery, stained glass and drawing, but now, locals can also try beginning acrylic painting, beginning weaving and book arts/bookbinding. The Studio is also accepting nominations for a no-cost "Clay for Kids" mobile studio visit. Nominees must be nonprofits that work with underserved children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to work with clay. Organizations may self-nomi-



Studio 550 is taking nominations for its Clay for Kids mobile studio. Courtesy photo.

nate, and must include in the nomination the organization's name, a contact person and a few sentences about what the organization does and why it would benefit from a studio visit. They're due via email (info@550arts.com) by Dec. 22 at 9 p.m. Studio 550 will be able to work with about 15 to 20 kids during the visit, and all materials will be provided.

• **Partnerships:** The New Hampshire Institute of Art and the New Hampshire Art Association announced a collaboration last week called Art Connects NH. It's a joint venture that will place original work by New England artists in nonprofits and social service agencies statewide. Art Connects NH will also bring together artists from across the state and connect them with like-minded organizations and provide outreach and educational components to enrich communities. According to the release, the Strafford County Family Justice Center will be the first recipient.

"We see this as an ongoing opportunity to share art with the state of New Hampshire," Suzanne Elder Burke, Art Connects NH executive director, said in a press release. — *Kelly Sennott*

GROUP performs at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, Sat., Jan. 3, at 3 p.m., includes Daniel Ben-nett on saxophone, Nat Janoff on guitar, Eddy Khaimovich on bass and Matthew Feick on drums. Free event. Visit nashualibrary.org, call 589-4610.

Theater

• **13 THINGS ABOUT ED CAR-POLOTTI** at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre (50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell) Nov. 28 through Dec. 21. Tickets start at \$20, mrt.org, 978-654-4678.

• **DORKS IN DUNGEONS HOLIDAY SPECIAL** with special guest, Stranger Than Fiction, Sun., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., at Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, dorksindungeons.org, 646-712-4978. Tickets \$12; visit dorksindungeons.org.

• **LAS POSADAS** original musical based on Tomie dePaola's holiday classic story at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St.,

Manchester, Sun., Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. Admission by donation; call 568-5102, visit dunn.t@comcast.net.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at The Players' Ring (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123, playersring.org), directed by Jennifer Henry through Dec. 23. Tickets are \$15 per person.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at The Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) through Dec. 21. A Christmas tradition, the play will comprise more than 50 actors; tickets cost \$15 to \$45. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **THE WIZARD OF OZ** at Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, through Dec. 28. Visit seacoastrep.org, call 712-4978 for ticket prices.

• **DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS** is at the Old Salt Restaurant, Lafayette Road, Hampton, Thurs., Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. The play provides a different spin on *A Christmas Carol*, following Charles Dickens during a time when he's

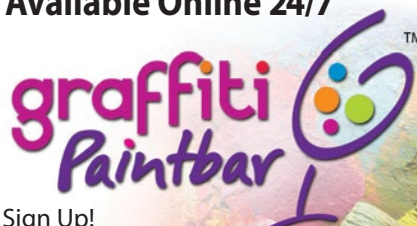
befuddled with writer's block and is wondering what to get his children for the holidays. The play was written by George Hosker-Bouley (who plays Charles Dickens), and the evening includes a gourmet three-course dinner, live music, holiday carols and the show. Tickets are \$39.99 per person (which doesn't include tax/gratuity) and must be reserved by calling 926-0330.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** by Hampstead Stage Company Thurs., Dec. 18, at 6 p.m., at Kingston Community Library, 2 Library Lane, Kingston, 642-3521, kingston-library.org, 642-3521.

• **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE** at the Sant Bani School, 19 Ashram Road, Sanbornton, 934-4240, Thurs., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; and Sat., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets \$5, call 934-4240.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, roch-

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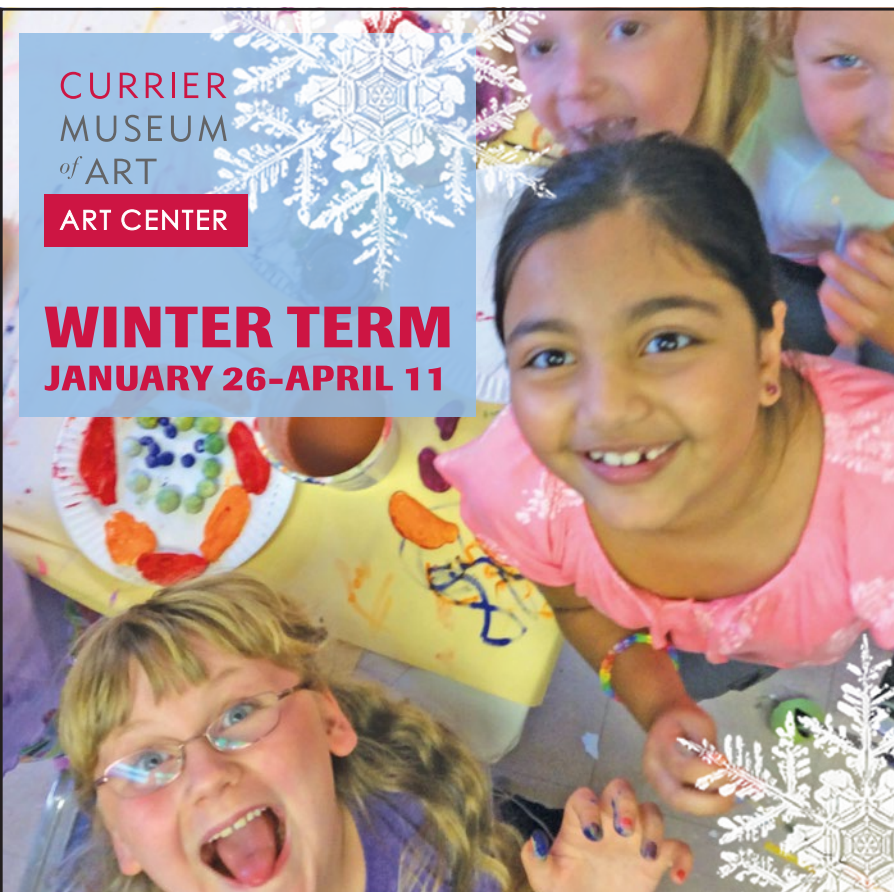
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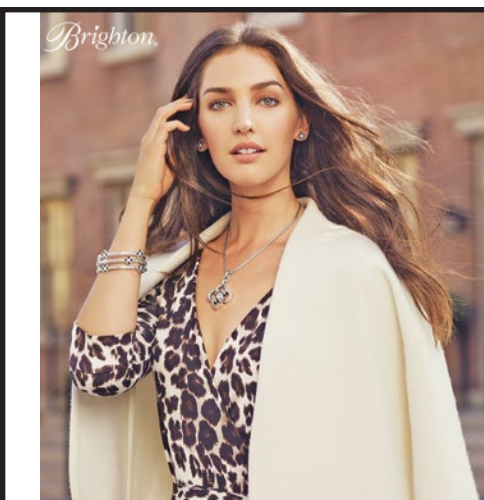
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Notes from the theater scene

• **Vaudeville in Portsmouth:** If you don't yet have plans for just after the holidays, consider Pontine Theatre's 7th Annual West-Fest: A New Vaudeville Festival, which runs Dec. 26 through Dec. 30. Performances happen at 2 p.m. at the theater, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, and they come together in a model that resembles the Phyzgig Festival in Portland, Maine. The family-oriented program showcases artists skilled in physical comedy, clowning, juggling, yoyo, magic and more. Tickets are \$15 per event and may be purchased at pontine.org. Email info@pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **Dorks in Dungeons Holiday Special:** On Sunday, Dec. 21, the Dorks in Dungeons comedy troupe presents a holiday theme for its 20-sided die role-playing improv performance. The Dorks will be joined by special guest improvisers Stranger Than Fiction, another Seacoast improv troupe with a devoted following. The event, which starts at 7 p.m., promises to merge and blend the best of both groups' comedy.

If you've never been to a Dorks event, a few things to know: The show follows a fantastical delivery service, The Special Parcel Service, as it tries to make heroic deliveries in the face of grave danger. What happens at each event is partly guided by Game Master Brian Kelly and a 20-sided die, similar to that in *Dungeons & Dragons*.

"Stranger Than Fiction paved the way for us in a lot of ways," Kelly said in a press release. "They're going to make us look like beginners out there." Tickets for the show are \$12 online for VIP tickets or pay-what-you-can at the door of the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Visit dorksindungeons.org.

esteroperahouse.com, contemporary version. Tickets are \$16, and showtimes are Thurs., Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 20, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. Visit communitypartnersnh.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by Ballet Misha at the Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, on Sat., Dec. 20, at 1 and 7 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. Visit balletmisha.com, call 668-4196, tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by New Hampshire School of Ballet Fri., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord, complete with falling snow and growing tree. Tickets

are \$15; call 668-5330 or email reinert@comcast.net.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by Gate City Ballet at the Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$18 each; call 437-5210, visit gatecityballet.com.

• **CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** by Peacock Players, based on time-honored favorites of the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, at Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua, Fri., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 20, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets \$10 to \$17. Call 886-7000, visit peacockplayers.org.

• **AN 1846 PORTSMOUTH NUTCRACKER** at The Music



Randy Judkins, juggler who has instructed at the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey's Clown College, and has served as a Circus of the Stars trainer in Hollywood. He performs at the 7th Annual West-Fest after Christmas. Courtesy photo.

• **Sergei Novikov:** The renowned pianist performs at the Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Visitors will experience 12 styles of piano, including classical, jazz, Latin, Russian, folk, blues, polka, waltz, tango and more. He's performed for George H.W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice, Joe Biden, Billy Joel, Reba McEntire and Paul Newman and has sold over 250,000 albums and performed live more than 10,000 times; tickets start at \$32. Visit tupelohall.com.

• **Audition alert:** Auditions everywhere. First, the Amherst PTA will hold auditions for *CATS!* at the Clark School, 7 Foundry St., Amherst, on Sunday, Jan. 4, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. Cast members ages 8 and older (adults included) will portray cats and dogs onstage. Bring a sheet of music for a song you'd like to sing in the style of the show and wear comfortable clothing. Then, on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m., the Majestic Theatre holds auditions for *Let's Murder Marsha* for adults 17 and older at the Majestic Theatre Studios, 922 Elm St., Suite 315, Manchester. Actors will read from the script; monologues are helpful but not required. Appointments are also not necessary, but promptness is. Visit majestictheatre.net or email rob@majestictheatre.net.

— Kelly Sennott

Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, Sat., Dec. 20, at 2 and 7 p.m., and on Sun., Dec. 21, at 2:30 p.m. There are "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" performances on Sat., Dec. 20, at 10 a.m., and Sun., Dec. 21, at 11:30 a.m. Presented by Great Bay Academy of Dance, the show is now in its 27th year at The Music Hall. Tickets are \$28-\$44.

• **CHANUKAH AT THE PALACE** starring Todd Oliver, is Sun., Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets \$20; call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **THE WORST BEST CHRISTMAS EVER** presented by Emmanuel Baptist Church Christmas Choir and Compellers Drama Team Sun., Dec. 21, at 6 p.m., at the church, 14 Mammoth Road,



BALLET MISHA'S NUTCRACKER

Manchester-based dance company Ballet Misha presents its *Nutcracker* production at the Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

Promised elements include "mischievous mice, waltzing snowflakes, tumbling candy canes and adorable dancing gingerbread cookies," as described in the press release. The production was also voted Best Art Event of the Year three times by Hippo voters. Tickets are \$20 for general admission beforehand, \$25 at the door. Visit balletmisha.com or call 668-4196. Courtesy photo.

Hooksett, free admission. Call 668-6473, visit emmanuelbaptist-church.com.

• **WEST-FEST: NEW VAUDEVILLE FESTIVAL** scheduled for Dec. 26 through Dec. 30 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, performances include the Wright Brothers; World of Wonders with Leland Faulkner; John Higby the YoYo Guy; King Kong with Michael Trautman; and Randy Judkins, the Yankee Juggler. Tickets \$15, visit pontine.org. Email info@pontine.org, call 436-6660.

• **ANDREW PINARD: DISCOVERING MAGIC** guided tour of "impossible and absurd" at Player's Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, Fri., Dec. 26, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 27, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 28, at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors/student members. Visit playersring.org, call 436-8123.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** by New Hampshire School of Ballet at The Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Sun., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15; call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **A WING AND A PRAYER** performed by the Majestic Theatre on Wed., Dec. 31, at 7 p.m., and Thurs., Jan. 1, at noon. Comes with dinner; tickets \$35 to \$50. Raffles, prizes, all at The Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester. Call 669-7469, visit majestictheatre.net.

ART

• **CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP** on view now through Mon., Dec. 22, at the historic Kendall House (5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford). The seasonal shop will be open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with more than 60 area artisans and craftspeople showcasing an array of handcrafted work, which includes winter-themed and holiday accessories (fiber/

fabric art, photography, fine art, Shaker boxes, stained/fused glasswork, jewelry, paper arts, ornaments, wood crafts, doll clothes and more). Visit craftworkersguild.org, email craftworkersguild@gmail.com.

• **INTOWN MANCHESTER 2014 DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET** inside Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, on Thurs., Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be more than 50 booths with locally made items by craftsmen and artisans, including artwork, jewelry, food and children's gifts, in addition to music and opportunities to get photos with Santa. Visit intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285.

• **HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET** at Rolling Green Nursery, 64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, Sun., Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., featuring 25 artisans who will show and sell handcrafted items designed and made by the artists. Visit rollinggreennursery.com.

In the galleries

• **"OBJECTS IN MOTION: SURVEY OF WORK BY KIM BERNARD"** on through Dec. 18 at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. Call 629-4622, visit snhu.edu/art.

• **MELISSA ANNE MILLER** presents new exhibition at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, called "A New View: Work From the Loft Studio at Orr & Reno," on view through Dec. 19. Miller celebrates her 20th year with the gallery.

• **"EXPLORING PIECES OF KOREA"** art exhibition with work by 18 Korean artists who live and work in New England, all media, on view through Dec. 20. Visit sooryeartgallery.com.

• **"MARELLI'S MARKET: THE FIRST 100 YEARS"** at the Tuck Museum, 40 Park Ave., Hampton. Free admission. On view through December 2014.

• **"LAND OF THE FREE"** art by Jane Chapin to raise funds/awareness for Special Operations Warrior Foundations and Pease Greeters, on view at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, on view now through Dec. 22. Visit portsmouthhistory.org/jane-chapin, call 436-8433.

• **"CREATIVE PLACES: DR. ROBERT SARGENT FAY"** longtime Monadnock region artist, art show in Sharon Arts Center members' Gallery through Dec. 24, widest variety of his work ever shown.

• **"COLOR IN AND OUT"** exhibition with December featured artists Jackie Cunningham and Priscilla Levesque at East Colony Fine Art, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, on view now through Dec. 27. Visit eastcolony.com, call 801-0703.

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** on view at East Colony Fine Art (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester). Here you can start your shopping with mini 6-inch-by-6-inch masterpieces, ornaments, cards and artful gifts. The exhibition is on view through Dec. 27. Visit eastcolony.com, call 621-7400.

• **"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"** an exhibition of paintings by Robin Frisella, Doreen Boissonneault, Debby Frisella and Steffen Poltak at 26 Old Candia Road, Candia, 361-4759, frisellafineart.com. The exhibition is on view through Dec. 27.

• **MARY R. CRUMP** art exhibition on view at the Concord Conservation Center, 55 Portsmouth St., Concord, 224-9945, through Dec. 30.

• **"GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** at Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center, 30 Ash St., Hollis, wildsalamander.com, 456-WILD, on view now through December. The group art show features work by local and regional artists, many of whom work in a smaller format to offer fine art more accessibly.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

The longest night

Celebrate the end of shorter winter days at a solstice event

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

This year's winter solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, falls on Sunday, Dec. 21. Embrace the darkest day with a local solstice celebration, knowing that once the longest night of the year has passed, each coming day will be one step closer to the spring thaw.

Commune with nature

Katja Esser, ceremonialist, leads a winter solstice celebration at America's Stonehenge in Salem. It emphasizes the "return of the light" and how it impacts the earth.

"The main part of it [winter solstice] is when the sun starts moving again, the days go longer and things start defrosting and we can grow food again," Esser said in a phone interview.

Since 1992, Esser has invited participants to tune into what is happening in nature and try to discover how that influences them individually.

"I use [a] theme and how it applies to our daily lives and how it affects the seasons," she said.

Since 2015 marks the beginning of an "earth year," Esser's celebration theme will be relationships with the earth, she said.

"This ritual focuses on our disconnect to the world itself. ... If] we have no connection to the earth, [that] has an effect on the earth."

Esser assigns "homework" that she encourages guests to prepare before the solstice celebration. The prepara-



Winter solstice shrine at America's Stonehenge. Photo by Laura Latimer.

tion guidelines are listed on the event website so everyone may come ready on the day with their "intentions aligned."

"If they put the energy into it, that's what they'll also get out," she said. "[There is] something really beautiful when people really bring their homework and see how their input magnifies the whole thing."

The event will be outdoors, so warm clothing and winter boots are recommended. Anyone is invited to prepare a snack to share at a potluck after the celebration.

Dance in unity

If an outdoor celebration isn't your style, join with friends and community members for a special sacred circle dance to welcome in the lighter days at the Portsmouth Center for Yoga and the Arts.

"A sacred circle dance draws from



Katja Esser leads winter solstice celebration. Photo by Laura Latimer.

the traditions of people all over the world who come together to dance in circles," dance teacher Amy Antonucci said in a phone interview.

An international folk dance, sacred circle draws from multiple cultures' traditions.

"This simple folk dance had been part of most cultures going back thousands of years," she said. "It's continued on that beautiful tradition of people coming together to connect this way."

Antonucci has led sacred circle dances in Portsmouth for the past 12 years and decided to begin a winter solstice dance tradition to celebrate and "welcome the growing sun." Each sacred circle dance has choreographed steps and a specific song that goes with it. The dance to the song "The Bells of Norwich" is reserved solely for this time of year.

"It is about going through dark times, but believing they will shift and things will be well again," she said. "We always dance it on the winter solstice and during the winter and put it away in spring."

Since she lives on a small farm, Antonucci feels connected to the seasons and earth cycles.

"There's just an ancient tradition of people coming together for winter solstice," she said. "It's sort of a depressing time of year in the Northern Hemisphere and knowing that it's about to shift seems to be a powerful time that people want to be together and mark what was happening in the world around them."

Sacred circle dancers that come for Antonucci's regular events range from age 20 to 75. It's an open environment for beginners as well; she'll explain all of the steps before each dance.

"My focus is on the joy and community of it," she said. "It's a pretty low-stress kind of environment."

For the solstice celebration, lights will be set up around the room and will dim and brighten throughout the dances to follow the contrasting themes of light and dark. After the dance there will be a dessert potluck and time to socialize.

Norse traditions

Delve a bit deeper into a traditional celebration at the Yule/Winter Solstice at Universalist Unitarian Church of Concord. As part of a 25-year tradition at the church, this celebration will showcase a Norse-based solstice.

"Ours is always a religious event rather than entertainment," Lorraine Ellis, a member of the church's earth-centered spirituality group, said in a phone interview.

Following the Norse Pantheon, this year's celebration will feature "a Norse creation story, honoring the sun goddess Sol, and a return from the dark," she said.

The celebration is presented differently each year by a member of the "eclectic" earth-centered spirituality group, Ellis said. This year's leader is versed in the Norse Pantheon while previous celebrations have incorporated Wiccan and Native American elements.

"We'll have an invocation to the gods, we will tell the creation story, the lights in the sanctuary will be dimmed and all the candles will be put out," Ellis said. "There will be a [symbolic] return of the sun, the light will come back in and we'll light the candles." It will conclude with singing and dancing and a "thanks to the gods for their blessings and attendance."

According to Ellis, winter solstice is a "turning of the tide" in many mythologies.

"The light is reborn so that the result is that the days get longer so we're celebrating the fact that it's going to get lighter, the darkness has been overcome and the wheel has turned," she said. 🍁

Attend a solstice celebration

Winter Solstice 2014

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: America's Stonehenge, 105 Haverhill Road, Salem

Tickets: \$11 site entry fee, \$5 minimum donation for celebration

See: stonehengeusa.com/wintersolstice.html for "homework"

Sacred Circle Dance for the Winter Solstice

When: Friday, Dec. 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Portsmouth Center for Yoga and the Arts, 95 Albany St.,

No. 14, Portsmouth

Tickets: \$5, optional dessert donation for potluck

See: 664-2796, amyla44@juno.com, portsmouthyoga.com/vlt6082.htm

Open Yule/Winter Solstice Celebration

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.

Where: Universalist Unitarian Church of Concord, 274 Pleasant St., Concord

Tickets: Free; donations welcome
See: facebook.com/ConcordUUecsg, concorduu.org/ecsg

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Kissing balls

How to make your own

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

At this time of year I need all the help I can get. Cloudy gray days do not make me cheerful. Days that end at 4 p.m. do not please me. I counteract the dark with lights, flowers on the table and greenery (and maybe a little chocolate). This year I decided to make a kissing ball to hang from my chandelier.

Kissing balls have a long history. During the Middle Ages villagers would hang balls of evergreens with a clay figure representing baby Jesus inside. Later, during the Victorian era, people would poke greens, particularly sweet-smelling greens, into apples or potatoes and them and hang them in the house.

But they fell into disfavor, and mistletoe became the primary green hung in the house during much of the 1900s. Mistletoe, of course, allowed high-spirited youth to steal a kiss if a maiden was "accidentally" standing under the mistletoe. In this day of lawsuits, no one wants to sell mistletoe, because the berries are quite poisonous. But now decorated evergreen balls are back, being sold as kissing balls. I recently made one.

When I made my plans I didn't think of an apple or a potato as the center of the ball. I bought a grapefruit and a large orange. But ultimately I decided I needed something longer lasting, and went to my local garden center to see if I could buy a ball of Oasis. Florists use Oasis to hold flowers and greens in place in arrangements while allowing them to absorb water. No one had balls of Oasis for sale, so I bought a 3- by 9-inch block.

I started the project by getting a variety of greens. I bought a small bundle of boxwood and cut branches of balsam fir, white pine, evergreen azalea and rhododendron.

Boxwood is loved by many gardeners; it is well behaved, slow-growing and has very small evergreen leaves that are a shiny green all year. They make great miniature hedges. I have avoided it because in the old days it was marginally hardy here. Now we have varieties that sneer at temperatures of 25 below and colder. Korean boxwood varieties such as Green Gem, Green Velvet and Green Mountain shouldn't suffer winter burn or winterkill.

Oasis is very easy to cut. I used a long serrated bread knife, but you could use any knife. I cut the block into a 3-inch by 3-inch cube. I placed a drinking glass with a 3-inch diameter on top of it, traced a circle on the oasis, and cut along the line with my knife, creating a cylinder. Then I did so on another side, making a rough sphere. I shaved off corners and edges until I had something close to an even sphere.

I soaked the sphere in water for 15 min-



Kissing ball. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

utes or so, rotating it a few times and holding it under water so the entire thing would be well soaked. Then I took an old fashioned wire coat hanger and cut out a section. I kept the top hook portion, one angled side and the bottom wire. I straightened it out with a pair of needle nose pliers, and pushed it through the globe. I then twisted the bottom inch of wire to a right angle, and slipped a big fender washer on it to help support the sphere once I hung it, and to keep the delicate Oasis from being damaged by the wire.

I hung the ball from my chandelier and began the easy part: decorating it. I cut pieces of greenery into roughly 6-inch pieces, and gently poked them into the Oasis. I started at the top, creating concentric circles of white pine, then boxwood, balsam fir, another layer of boxwood, then azalea and rhododendron, and finally finishing up with more boxwood. Once I passed the "equator" I turned the leaves so that the shiny side would be facing down.

I used my pocket knife to shave off needles of the fir (which did not pull off easily), and to remove any lumps in the stems. On thicker branches, I shaved off a little wood to make a thinner branch to poke into the Oasis.

At the very bottom I attached a bow made of red ribbon, wiring it onto the hook at bottom after removing the washer. That insured that the wire would not pull though the Oasis, which is very delicate.

It was gorgeous. A globe of green with a nice variety of textures and colors of green. All it needed was some red berries. So my dog Daphne and I jumped in the car and drove to the nearest swamp to cut some branches for the kissing ball.

Our native holly, which loses its leaves, is called winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). In the wild it lives in swamps, but is also a good landscape plant with loads of bright red berries. It is dioecious, meaning it has male and female plants; if you want berries, buy a male to go with your females (one male can service several females).

At home, I poked stems of red berries into the kissing ball. It certainly brightens up the room.

Email henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

Hello Donna,

I was recently given the items shown in the attached pictures, and I have had no luck in obtaining any information about the value or what they are called. I do know they are old and made of pewter. They have hand-stamped markings along the rims and sides of the cups. They were obviously used for measuring, as they are labeled "litre, Demi litre, double decilitre, decilitre, Demi decilitre, double centilitre, centilitre." That is in order from large to small. I was hoping you could help me in identifying them and if they have value.

Deven from Laconia

Dear Deven,

What you have is a set of tankard pewter measures. This set is from France and dates back to late 1800s to early 1900s. You are right; they are for measuring fluids. There are a few different styles and names for such measures. Some are more rounded, and they are called gills, but all are for the same purpose.

The markings, called "touch marks," show where and when and sometimes who the makers were. With some research you can find out a lot of information on European items such as your measures just by looking into marks. They have books for this, and I bet online they have information as well if it's something you would like to pursue. Years ago it was pretty uncommon to find a complete set of such measures. But with the computer age it's not, so the



value has dropped. You normally can find a set such as yours in the \$200 range depending on the condition and age.

Keep in mind that reproductions have been made, and some even have an imprint in the pewter that looks like touch marks but is just an imprint. Another important thing to note is that real pewter should be heavy, whereas reproductions usually are not.

One last bit of information: Do not use your measures, because most pewter was made with a lead base and is not recommended for today's use.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

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Misc

Holiday events

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST Hopkinton and Contoocook resident may decorate their homes for a chance to win the 8th annual contest. Three winners are chosen by the Recreation Committee and guest judges. Judging takes place on Thurs., Dec. 18. Hopkinton. Free Visit hopkintonrec.com or call 746-2915.

POLAR EXPRESS Children take a magical journey on the Polar Express with cookies, cocoa, and a reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Christmas tale. Thurs., Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. Pelham Public Library, 24 Village Green, Pelham. Call 635-7581 ext. 3065 or email dlaffond@pelhamweb.com.

HOLIDAY GIFT WORKSHOP Participants will create gifts for family and friends. Intended for ages 6 to 12. Sat., Dec. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Heights Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road, Concord. Visit concordpark-sandrec.com or call 725-8690.

HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET

25 artisans selling handcrafted items such as cards and calendars, jewelry, women's clothing, stone and slate carvings, handbags and more. Sun., Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rolling Green Nursery, 64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland. Visit rollinggreennursery.com.

TRIP TO THE WANG THEATER The trip will depart from the Town Hall at 11:15 a.m., and participants will get the opportunity to see Irving Berlin's holiday classic *White Christmas*. Call 882-1046 or contact mcasparius@merrimacknh.gov. Departure is Sun., Dec. 21 at 11:15 Merrimack Town Hall, 6 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack. \$65 per person and includes transportation and a ticket to the show.

HOLIDAY FAIR The fair will host more than 60 artisans and craftspeople featuring winter-themed and holiday accessories, fiber and fabric arts, photography and fine art, shaker boxes, stained and fused glass work, gourmet treats and food. Visit

craftworkersguild.org. Mon., Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

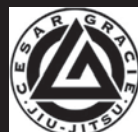
BEDFORD LIVING NATIVITY Carol sing and handbell performance followed by an outdoor retelling of the Christmas story. Cocoa and refreshments will be served. Tues., Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. Bedford Presbyterian Church, 4 Church Road, Bedford. Free Call 472-5841 or visit bedfordpresbyterian.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE ON THE MILFORD OVAL A traditional, outdoor, Christmas Carols Service. Hot drinks and other refreshments will be provided. Wed., Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Milford Oval, Union Square, Milford. Email Michelle Berthiaume prlwcc@yahoo.com.

Religion-related events

COMMUNITY HU CHANT A non-denominational worship service with singing, discussion, and chanting. Thurs., Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. Free Call 800-713-8944 or visit eckankar-nh.org.

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Polar adventures

Hop on the **Polar Express** and take a magical journey at Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham) on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Kids will board the "train" in the library's reading room to hear Miss Debbie read *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. Join in the singing of a few Christmas favorites and munch on snacks. Children are welcome to wear their pajamas or Christmas sweaters to take pictures. Call 635-7581 ext. 3065 or email dlaffond@pelhamweb.com.

Wintertime wonders

Join a storytime reading of Eve Bunting's *The Night Tree* and learn about sharing the holiday season with wildlife. **The Night Tree craft & hike** at Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) gives kids the chance to make outdoor tree decorations to feed backyard animals. Stop by on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 9 to 11 a.m. and bring home popcorn and cranberry garland, apple and orange slice ornaments and sunflower seed balls. Intended for kids age 7 and older. Cost is \$15 per person. Visit beaverbrook.org.

Join the NH Astronomical Society for a **winter skywatch** on Monday, Dec. 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham). Open to kids of all ages, the skywatch will begin with a slideshow before heading outside to view the constellations and planets during the new moon. Astronomical Society members will provide large telescopes, and cookies and cocoa will be offered to help you stay warm while scanning the skies. This is a free event. Call 432-7154 or email swilliams@nesmithlibrary.org to register.

Museums & Tours Exhibits

•**NASHUA EXHIBIT DISPLAY CASE** Nashua Historical Society's revolving exhibit case on the first floor features topics such as 1940s baseball in Nashua and past and present restaurants. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nashua City Hall, 229 Main St., Nashua. Free See 589-3000, gonashua.com.
•**SCIENCE IN THE KITCHEN WITH CHEF NICOLE** Exhibit shows kids the science behind cooking. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends SEE Science Center, 200 Bedford St., Manchester. \$8 See

669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org.
•**HYBRID HOUSE EXHIBIT** The exhibit will teach about energy use and how to have smaller carbon footprints. Learn about light bulb choices, landscaping and how everything affects the environment. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. SEE Science Center, 200 Bedford St., Manchester. \$8 See 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org.
•**NEW HAMPSHIRE THEN & NOW** Features collections of photographs capturing the history of New Hampshire from as early as the late 19th century compared to how we know it today. Tues. through Sat., from

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through June. New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord. Free See 228-6688, nhhistory.org.
•**WORLD OF CHOCOLATE** Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Roald Dahl's classic tale of Willy Wonka and his spectacular chocolate factory with a tour of the history of chocolate and a discussion of the innovative ways that chocolate makers are experimenting with ingredients. Wed. through Sun. until Sat., Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough. \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children and free for members. See



Make it a movie night

Let it go and have a frozen day at the **movie sing-along, princess visit and craft** in the children's room at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Watch the sing-a-long version of Disney's *Frozen* and make a craft before meeting Princess Elsa. Free; no registration required. Call 886-6030 or visit rogerslibrary.org.

Take in a fun family movie at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. Snacks will be served during a screening of **Planes: Fire & Rescue**. Join Dusty Crophopper as he begins a new career in this movie sequel. Held in the community meeting room as part of the monthly family film series. Call 886-6030 or visit rogerslibrary.org.

Get Seussical at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. for a showing of *The Lorax*. Learn the story of the charmingly grumpy Lorax and the young boy who discovers his story.

Yoga with a twist

Crafts, music and glow-in-the-dark yoga are a few of the fun activities kids ages 6 to 11 can check out during **kids night out** on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Jecayoga (55 S. Commercial St., Suite 204, Manchester). Kids yoga director Katherine Laurendeau will lead the session. Cost is \$45; registration required. Visit jecayoga.com/events or call 204-4284.

Say it together

Make connections at a community chant

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Trying to bring more peace and harmony to their lives, people are gathering together to sing "HU" at public chants held throughout New Hampshire.

Phil Levesque, chant facilitator, has been leading HU songs for 30 years.

"HU is a name for God, it's a sound of God, it's a song to chant that we use to kind of align ourselves with what we think of as God," he said in a phone interview.

Community chants have only been offered in the state for a few years, Levesque said. They began as a way to let people of any faith or background try out an open chant in different venues.

"We decided to call it the community HU chant and make it a very simple, public event," he said.

Eckankar, religion of light and sound of God, has been in New Hampshire since the 1970s and uses HU singing in worship services. Eckankar sponsors the event, but its principles aren't shared at the community chants.

"Whatever religion or spiritual practice a person is in, that's what's right for them," Levesque said.

"HU appears in a number of religious teachings," he said. "The Sufis, which is a mystical offshoot of Islam, uses the word HU and we recognize that in some of the root words of ancient Hebrew, Jewish teachings ... HU is in the center of that as well."

Community chants are short, typically less than 45 minutes, and involve



only a few components. They begin with the facilitator introducing the principles behind the HU and sharing a story of how chanting HU has impacted his or her life. Next is 20 minutes of singing.

"We sing the HU, and it's just a long drawn out 'huuu,'" Levesque said. "The intent is to tap into an experience, this love of God, and it's sort of very much a two-way street. I'll end the session by saying 'May the blessing be.'"

When it comes to doing the HU, there are very few requirements. Levesque said all one has to do is get "a sense or feeling of love" to be in the right mindset to sing. How you get to that sense of love can be anything from thinking of a loved one to picturing a sunset.

Karen Mitchell has sung the HU as part of her Eckankar practice for a number of years but was excited to try something different with the community chants.

"I was certainly drawn to the wider circle of more voices," Mitchell said in a phone interview. "I felt [that] the energy there is really wonderfully uplifting, and the practice as a whole centers me and makes me stronger."

Mitchell thinks that anyone who wants to feel connected to the community or God in a non-judgmental setting should try a community chant.

"No one's checking what religion are you from or what do you believe or don't you believe," she said. "The underlying thrust is this is about recognizing and celebrating your love for life, your love for God."

A main theme of singing HU is to uplift people and share it for others to use as they may.

"I certainly do go to connect with other people. ... I feel like [when we] come together and sing this ancient holy word, we create a vortex of upliftment," Mitchell said. "We're all connected. What happens to one happens to all."

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When: Third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Exeter Public Library

Where: 4 Chestnut St., Exeter

When: Fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Keene Public Library

Where: 60 Winter St., Keene

When: Second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Tires don't care what they're filled with



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
My questions involve the nitrogen-filled tires on my 2011 Subaru Outback. These were on the car when I bought it, and I was assured that they had advantages over air-filled tires. But this was kind of a last-minute decision, and I confess I didn't do any research into the matter. My husband and I are snowbirds, and recently, just before leaving for Florida, I had a flat tire.

This brought questions to mind, since not all garages are equipped with nitrogen: (1) Is it OK to drive a car with one air-filled tire and three nitrogen-filled tires, as suggested by the fellow who changed the tire? (2) Can existing nitrogen-filled tires be refilled with air? (3) Would it be more practical to just bite the bullet and buy four new air-filled tires? (I dread the expense!) My main concern is driving between North and South on the interstates and getting a flat, in the middle of nowhere, and not having access to a nitrogen supply. I'll look forward to your answer! — Clem

Great questions, Clem. And the answer, as my brother would have said, is: fuggedaboutit.

I think the nitrogen-filled-tire thing is a scam. Obviously, as you were in the final hours of purchasing your new car, they sold you on a bunch of add-ons. You bit on the pinstripes, the pom-pom on the antenna in the shape of Vladimir Putin and the nitrogen-filled tires. And all that only added \$30 to your monthly payment! Congratulations.

The argument they make is that the nitrogen doesn't contain oxygen, like normal air does. That's said to give you several advantages if you put it in your tires:

They say the oxygen in the air degrades the rubber more than nitrogen does. They say nitrogen molecules are slightly larger than oxygen molecules in the air, so it's less likely to leak through the rubber. They say if you use pure nitrogen from a tank, there's no water vapor in it, like there is in the air we breathe. Water vapor can affect pressure variation when the tires heat up, and can cause corrosion. And then some salesmen have claimed that if you have an accident and there's a fire, if your tires explode there

won't be additional oxygen to further fuel the flames.

Every one of these arguments has an iota of truth. But they're all completely overblown. And in my opinion, it's a total waste of money to put nitrogen in your tires.

First of all, air is already 80 percent nitrogen. So even if you go to the gas station and fill your tires at the ding-ding pump, you're getting mostly nitrogen anyway.

Second, even if nitrogen limits the degradation of the rubber, your nitrogen-filled tires are still exposed to air on the outside of the tires! And once the outside of the tires degrade, you have to replace them.

Third, nitrogen molecules are slightly larger than oxygen molecules, but it's not like we're having an epidemic of air seeping through rubber tires in this country. Tires in good condition don't leak.

Fourth, a small variation in tire pressure while driving is normal. Pressure increases as the tires heat up. If you're driving a race car at 200 mph, half a pound of tire pressure might make a difference, but you and I will never notice it.

Fifth, before you spend a lot of money preventing water vapor in the air inside your tires from hastening the corrosion of your wheels, remember that the other 99.5 percent of your car is always exposed to air -- and water vapor.

And finally, if your car is already on fire, to the point that it causes your tires to heat up and explode, a slightly brighter flame around the wheel wells will be the least of your worries.

So to answer your specific questions: It's fine to drive a car with three tires filled with nitrogen and one tire filled with air (80 percent nitrogen); it makes no difference whatsoever.

Existing nitrogen-filled tires can be refilled with air at any time, to any degree. The tires don't care what's in them.

And no, it would not be practical to buy four new, air-filled tires. Your tires are fine, and there's no need to replace them just to change what they're filled with. As they need air, fill them with air from any convenient gas station. And over time, try to forget that you ever heard the word "nitrogen."

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By Joel Bergeron
listings@hippopress.com



Physical activity has long been touted as the fountain of youth. Everybody knows exercise helps people maintain a healthy weight, lower risk for disease and have more energy.

But most people don't realize the non-tangible benefits of exercise, particularly with cognitive function and health.

Your individual self-image controls confidence, mood, ability to cope with stress and, ultimately, how much success and failure you have in life. It has been said that 93 percent of all communication is non-verbal (for instance, body language and tone of voice, not just the content of spoken word). If you project a positive image, people see this and you'll have a brighter day. Conversely, being a Debby Downer usually keeps others away.

Here are five ways regular physical activity positively influences your mental health:

1. **Better stamina.** Usually when you first start exercising, you fatigue quickly. As the pounds come off and your endurance goes up, you can handle more activity, and your efficiency improves as well, meaning your workout pace speeds up. Seeing this progress provides a huge boost in confidence.

2. **More motivation.** It's easier to stick to a workout when you are seeing results, and to say no to things that you know will set you back. This motivation and self-discipline also carries over into other aspects of your life, and can help you avoid negative influences in a variety of different areas.

3. **Sense of accomplishment.** The more you exercise, the more often you feel good about yourself. There is something about finishing a workout, feeling a bit tired and sweaty and realizing you did something good for your body. There is a lot of satisfaction knowing you've spent this time on something positive for yourself.

4. **Positive mental hormones.** Ever heard of the "runner's high?" Well, this isn't just a myth. When you exercise, your brain produces endorphins. These chemicals provide



a sense of euphoria and overall happiness, and believe it or not, are actually addictive. The redeeming quality is that these chemicals reinforce good habits, rather than bad ones.

5. **More energy.** A physically fit body has a faster metabolism. This translates to better focus, higher and longer attention spans, a more 'upbeat' attitude, and ultimately better work ethic. Each of these things is what attracts other people to you, and opens up more opportunities in life.

While working out as a stand-alone activity may not pay your taxes or solve world hunger, it certainly plays a powerful role in helping maintain cognitive health. The mental mind-set you approach life with affects everything and everyone around you. Make sure you get some physical activity into your schedule at least three times a week for 20 minutes (as recommended by the surgeon general). Before you know it, you'll be seeing and feeling the benefits and asking yourself why you waited so long to start in the first place.

Do you have a question about health and fitness that you'd like answered in The Healthy Hippo? Email Joel Bergeron at info@nlp-strength.com. Joel is a former NCAA D1 and professional sports coach and holds a master's degree in sport science. Be sure to check with your doctor before changing your eating habits or embarking on a new exercise program.

mariposamuseum.org, 924-4555

•**HISTORICAL ROOMS** Wilton Historical Society artifacts and displays on the top floor of the library. Thurs. from 1:30 to 5 p.m. year round. Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. See 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org.
•**LUNAR RECON: SPACECRAFT, CRATERS AND COSMIC RAYS** The exhibit will detail the discoveries of the

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission launched by NASA Fri. to Sun. from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Dr., Concord. Included in general admission See 271-7827, starhop.com.

Historic & cultural sites
•**HISTORIC CHURCHES OF LACONIA LECTURE** Executive director Brenda Kean will present a lecture on Laconia's

historic churches. Mon., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Laconia Historical & Museum Society, 695 Main St., Laconia. Free. Visit laconia-historical.org or call 527-1278.
•**USS ALBACORE** Navy-designed vessel that became a standard model for today's submarine. It served from 1953 to 1972. Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Memorial Day to Columbus Day See 436-3680, ussalbacore.org.

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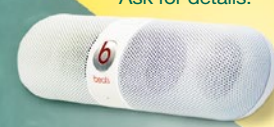
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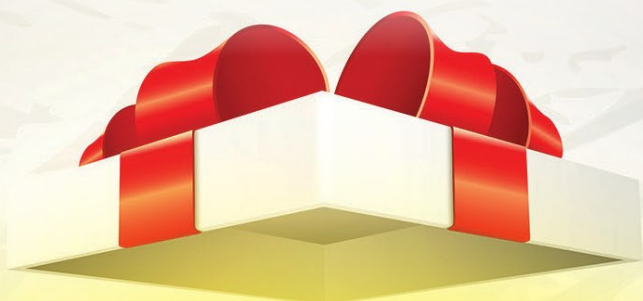
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LAST CHANCE FOR CRAFTY GIFTS

The holiday season is all in how you craft it. Don't miss out on special craft fairs and events happening this week.

- Don't miss the last chance to visit over 50 local artisans and craftspeople at **Downtown Holiday Market** (Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester) on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Stuff those stockings with artwork, jewelry, soaps, lotions and more. Call 645-6285 or visit intownmanchester.com
- Check out Rolling Green Nursery's (64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland) **holiday artisan market** on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The nursery's greenhouse will have handmade items from 25 artisans, such as women's clothing accessories, cards and calendars, jewelry, stonework and slate carvings, handbags and more. Visit rollinggreennursery.com
- A multi-vendor **bingo and shopping extravaganza** will be held at the Hudson American Legion (2 Fulton St., Hudson) on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. Play some bingo and finish up your holiday shopping with gifts from a selection of vendors and crafters. Bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the Legacy X toy drive and be entered in a raffle. Contact athenasgoddesscrystal@gmail.com for more.
- The final day of the **Craftworkers' Guild Holiday Craft Shop** is Monday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. 60 juried artisans and crafters will showcase their art glass, pottery, gourmet snacks, candles, woodenware and more. Visit thecraftworkersguild.org.

•**WARNER HOUSE** One of the oldest urban brick houses in New England which housed influential Portsmouth residents of the 18th-century. See 436-5909, warnerhouse.org

Wed. through Mon. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through mid-Oct. 150 Daniels St., Portsmouth. \$6

•**JOHN PAUL JONES HOUSE** Features artifacts of John Paul Jones, American naval hero, and from the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through early Nov. 43 Middle St., Portsmouth. \$6. Call 436-8420.

•**GOV. JOHN LANGDON HOUSE** National historic landmark. The Georgian mansion was home to John Langdon, merchant, shipbuilder, signer of the U.S. Constitution, and three-term New Hampshire governor. Open Fri. through Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 1 through Oct 15. 142 Pleasant St., Portsmouth. \$6 Call 436-3205.

•**MOFFATT-LADD HOUSE & GARDEN** National historic landmark. The Georgian mansion was home to merchant John Moffatt as well as General William Whipple, one of the three New Hampshire

who signed the Declaration of Independence. The house is furnished as it was in 1763. See 436-8221, moffattladd.org. 154 Market St., Portsmouth.

•**NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Features the Abbot-Spalding House Museum, home of Daniel Abbot, the father of Nashua; and the Florence H. Spaulding Memorial Museum,

home of the Frank B. Clancy research Library and exhibits of historic Nashua. See 883-0015, nashuahistoricalsociety.org 5 Abbott St., Nashua.

Historic & cultural trails

•**LOWELL TROLLEYS** Run each day in downtown Lowell. For times and locations, see Visitor Center or the

Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Visitor Center, 246 Market St., Lowell. Boot Cotton Mills Museum, 115 John St., Lowell. History & museum events

•**HISTORIC CHURCHES OF LACONIA LECTURE** Executive director Brenda Kean will present a lecture on Laconia's historic churches. Mon., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Laconia Historical & Museum Society, 695 Main St., Laconia. Free. Visit laconia-historical.org or call 527-1278.

•**LEGO MILLIYARD PROJECT** Representing Manchester's downtown and Amoskeag Milliyard as they might have looked circa 1900. This 55-to-1 scale model is the largest permanent Lego installation at mini-figure scale in the world. Mon. to Fri. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat. and Sun. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. SEE Science Center, 200 Bedford St., Manchester. \$8 See 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org.

•**ARTIST TEXTILES: PICASSO TO WARHOL** Exhibition traces 20th century art in textiles, highlighting works by Picasso, Warhol, Dali, Matisse, Chagall, Hepworth and more. Visit [org. Exhibit runs Nov. 21 to March 29. American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St. #2, Lowell. \\$8 for adults 17 and older, \\$6 for seniors 65 and older or children 6 to 16.](http://athm.</p>
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•**MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Holds open houses April through Dec. in the Carey House Second weekend of each month from 2 to 4 p.m., April through Dec. Carey House, 6 Union St., Milford. Free See milfordnhhistory.org, 673-3385.

Ongoing

•**HISTORICAL ROOMS** Wilton Historical Society artifacts and displays on the top floor of the library. Thurs. from 1:30 to 5 p.m. year round. Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. See 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org.

•**WARNER HOUSE** One of the oldest urban brick houses in New England which housed influential Portsmouth residents of the 18th-century. See 436-5909, warnerhouse.org Wed. through Mon. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through mid-Oct. 150 Daniels St., Portsmouth. \$6



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News from the local food scene

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

FOOD

Dine out this Christmas

Restaurants offer special dinners and holiday menus

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

• **Ciao, Villa Banca:** After nearly two decades of business, Gate City Italian restaurant Villa Banca closed suddenly on Monday, Dec. 1. Ownership announced the closing on its Facebook page, which said, "It [is] with great sadness that after 18 years of being part of the great community of Nashua, Villa Banca has closed [its] doors. It's never easy to say goodbye, but while this was a difficult decision, we are filled with gratitude for the time we spent together, and to all of you for allowing us to be part of your lives and your celebrations." A flood of responses was left on the Facebook page from customers, staff and other Nashua businesses (including neighboring restaurant Stella Blu) with over 140 comments in response to the closing. Many responded with inquiries about gift cards left unredeemed before closing. In response, Martha's Exchange (185 Main St., Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com) announced it will be accepting unredeemed Villa Banca gift cards. Villa Banca ownership did not release the reason for the restaurant's closing. The closing of the long-standing restaurant comes after the closing of other downtown eateries, including Estabrook Grill which closed earlier this fall, and Saffron Bistro, which closed last year.

• **Two more Nashua restaurants open:** Nashua residents who are sad to see Villa Banca go can celebrate the opening of two more restaurants in the Gate City. 110 Grill Restaurant (27 Trafalgar Square, Nashua, 943-7443, 110grill.com) opened last week on Monday, Dec. 8. This is 110 Grill's second location (its first is in Chelmsford, Mass.). And just in time for Christmas, Not Your Average Joe's will be opening a new location in Nashua on Monday, Dec. 22, at 221 Daniel Webster Hwy. The first Not Your Average Joe's opened in 1994 and currently has 15 locations in Massachusetts, with a few others in the greater Washington, D.C. area and another in Rhode Island. The new Nashua restaurant will be the first Not Your Average Joe's restaurant in the Granite State. It's known for its not-your-average American cuisine (including entrees like cranberry teriyaki chicken with butternut squash cannelloni and chicken enchiladas with poblano crema) as well as a gluten-free menu and list of craft beers. Port City foodies might recognize Not Your Average Joe's executive chef, Jeffrey Tenner, who previously owned and operated restaurants in Portsmouth.

• **Make wine education your New Year's resolution:** With New Hamp-

Dine out this Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, or celebrate Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25. Many restaurants close for the holiday, but the following are serving special dinners or opening with modified hours. Call ahead to place a reservation to guarantee a seating.

Christmas Eve dinners and special menus

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) is serving a prix fixe dinner with seating times from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the dining room and at Corks (the Tavern will be closed for dinner). The menu includes appetizers like chestnut soup, tagliatelle, New Bedford sea scallop and Duck Trap Farms smoked salmon, salads, and seven entrees to choose from (pan-roasted Gulf of Maine monkfish, lobster, duck, veal porterhouse, beef tenderloin, roasted beef risotto and roast Christmas goose). The dinner concludes with a dessert buffet and dinner cordials served in the Great Hall. Dinner costs \$79 for adults, \$29.95 for children ages 10 and under (prices do not include tax and gratuity). Reservations are required.

• **Campo Enoteca** (969 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0256, campoenoteca.com) will be offering seatings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (seatings every half hour) for a traditional Italian Christmas Feast of the Seven Fishes dinner. The menu includes an amuse bouche with day boat scallop stuffed marinated mushrooms with lemon saffron aioli and tomato red wine reduction; an antipasti with Maine Hollander mussels and Rhode Island littleneck clams; oreganata with marinated sardine crostini with melted onions agra dolce with pine nuts and golden raisins; a wild-caught shrimp scampi; locally landed swordfish Milanese with saffron and Parmesan risotto; a fennel, orange, whole-leaf parsley salad with extra virgin olive oil with fried baccala croquette; and house-made profiteroles with local gelato for dessert. Dinner costs \$45. Reservations required.

• **Common Man Claremont** (21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171, thecman.com) will be serving Christmas Eve dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **Country Spirit Restaurant & Tavern** (262 Maple St., Henniker, 428-7007, countryspirit-henniker.com) will be open regular hours and serving from its regular menu with holiday specials. The Christmas Eve menu will feature pork osso buccu, roast half duck (a semi-boneless half duck topped with a rasp-



berry chambord sauce) and a land and sea combo (with filet mignon and steamed lobster claws served with a Bearnaise sauce) for entree choices.

• **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (2 Pine St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be serving a three-course prix fixe menu (with seven entrees to choose from, including bronzed sea scallops, speck wrapped pork tenderloin, filet mignon and Atlantic salmon) for \$49 on Christmas Eve from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations required.

• **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) will be serving Christmas Eve dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939, giorgios.com) will be serving its Christmas Eve Feast (in the Milford location only) from 5 to 8:30 p.m. with a buffet of appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. The buffet costs \$29.99 for adults, \$9.99 for kids under age 12, and kids under 4 eat free. Reservations recommended.

• **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) will be serving from its regular menu and from a special holiday menu for Christmas Eve from noon to 5 p.m. Reservations strongly recommended.

• **Old Europe** (76 N. Main St., Concord, 856-7181, oldeuropenh.com) will be open until 8 p.m. with a special cocktails and dinner menu.

• **The Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a modified menu and Christmas dinner specials.

• **Zampa** (8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com) is serving a special Christmas Eve dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. Reservations recommended.

Restaurants open for Christmas Eve with regular menus

• **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) will be open until 9 p.m.

• **The Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) will be open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmontrestaurant.com) will be closing at 2 p.m.

• **Black Forest Cafe** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **The Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern** (176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 437-2022, coachstopnh.com) will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and serving a limited version of its dinner menu from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) will be open until 2 p.m.

• **Common Man Restaurants** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088, thecman.com) will be open various hours on Christmas Eve. The Concord and Merrimack locations will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will be open for gift card sales only until 5 p.m.; the Common Man in Ashland will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Lincoln and Windham restaurants will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for gift card sales only.

• **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com) will be taking reservations until 8 p.m. and serving from its regular menu with holiday specials.

• **Country Tavern** (452 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-5871, countrytavern.org) will be open for lunch until 3 p.m.

• **Cucina Toscana** (427 Amherst St., Nashua, 821-7356, cucinatoscana.com) will be open regular hours and serving from its regular menu with specials. Reservations recommended.

• **The Derryfield Restaurant** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com) will close at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, firefly-nh.com) will be open for lunch, serving from its regular menu with some specials, and will close at 4 p.m.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 641-6776, fratellos.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. serving from its regular menu. Seating is "first come, first served."

Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be open regular hours.

• **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com) will be open regular hours and serving from its regular dinner menu with holiday specials. Reservations recommended.

• **Hart's Turkey Farm** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturfarm.com) will be open until 2 p.m.

• **The Homestead Restaurant** (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022, homesteadnh.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• **Hooked Seafood Restaurant** (110 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-1189, hookedonignite.com) and **Ignite Bar & Grille** (100 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-0064, hookedonignite.com) will be open until 5 p.m.

• **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com) the Bistro will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

• **Martha's Exchange** (185 Main St., Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com) will be closing at 6 p.m. The candy department will be open on Christmas Eve, and also closing at 6 p.m.

• **Mint Bistro** (1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistronh.com) will be open for lunch and closing around 4 p.m.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) will be open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is accepting reservations for dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Piccola Italia** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 606-5100, piccolaitalianh.com) will be open during its regular hours.

• **Republic Cafe & Bistro** (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com) will close early at 6 p.m.

• **Restaurant Tek-Nique** (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restaurantteknique.com) will be open for regular hours and serving from its regular menu with specials.

• **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204, thecman.com) will be serving breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Tuscan Kitchen** (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) will be serving from its full dinner menu and a traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve and closing at 9 p.m.

• **The Windham Restaurant** (59 Range Road, Windham, 870-9270, windhamrestaurant.com) will be open from 1 to 8 p.m.

• **Unums** (47 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 821-6500, unums.com) will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

• **XO on Elm** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xoonelm.com) will be open its regular hours.

• **The Yard Restaurant** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) will be open regular hours on Christmas Eve.

Dine out on Christmas Day

• **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (2 Pine St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. with a limited menu.

• **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from its regular menu.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) is serving its Grand Christmas Feast with seatings from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The menu includes corn and lobster chowder with tarragon cream, salads, apple-roasted chicken breast with sweet onion pumpkin seed relish, herb-seared salmon with lemon butter sauce, herb-crusted and slow-roasted sirloin of beef with caramelized onion au jus and horseradish cream, crimson whipped potatoes, assorted cakes, pies and sweets, pumpkin and pecan cobbler with Common Man vanilla ice cream, and more. The feast costs \$36.95 for adults, and \$16.95 for children ages 12 and under (prices do not include tax and gratuity). Reservations strongly encouraged.

• **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com) is open 24 hours a day year round, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The regular menu will be available along with specials.

• **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) will be open from 4 to 11 p.m.

• **Stonehurst Manor** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, stonehurstmanor.com) will be serving Christmas dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. with a special Christmas menu, including appetizers like smoked beef tenderloin crostini and scallops wrapped in bacon, baby green salad with Chalab Farms' chevre and cherry bourbon vinaigrette, and 10 entrees to choose from, including maple-brined turkey, aged and pit-smoked prime rib of beef, seafood cioppino, lamb with fresh rosemary, roast butternut squash ravioli with winter vegetables and Veal Oscar.

• **Wentworth by the Sea** (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, wentworth.com) will be serving a Festive Christmas Brunch in the Wentworth Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Brunch costs \$49.95 for adults, and \$19.95 for children ages 2 to 12 (prices do not include tax and gratuity). Reservations are required. It will then be serving a three-course prix fixe Festive Christmas Dinner from 1 to 10 p.m. in SALT Kitchen & Bar and in the Grand Dining Room. The prix fixe dinner costs \$49.95 for adults, and \$19.95 for children ages 2 to 12 (prices do not include tax and gratuity). Reservations are strongly recommended. 🍷

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Christmas to-go

Place orders now for platters and pies

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

With parties to plan and guests to entertain, check out the following bakeries, butcher shops, foodie businesses and restaurants where you can place orders for platters, roasts, cakes, pies, cookies and more. Most locations have a deadline to order by, but all locations said to places orders, "the sooner, the better."

• **Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop** (815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, angelaspastaandcheese.com) is taking orders for sweets, breads and platters until Saturday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 23, and Wednesday, Dec. 24. Its holiday menu includes two pages of ordering options, including shortbread cookies, savory salmon and pork pies, breads and sweets from local bakeries, side dishes, Greek pastries and Russian tea cookies, Yule logs, dessert pies (from pumpkin and coconut cream to banana and maple custard, plus ricotta pies from Modern Pastry), cannolis and gluten-free pies.

• **Baked Downtown Cafe and Bakery** (1015 Elm St., Manchester, 606-1969, baked-downtown.com) will be accepting special orders until Saturday, Dec. 20. After, an assortment of small baked goods and pies will be available on a "first come, first served" basis.

• **The Bakeshop On Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) is accepting orders for Christmas sweets, platters and baked goods until Monday, Dec. 22, for pick-up on Wednesday, Dec. 24, by 2 p.m. Available baked goods include Christmas cookies, gingerbread men, Yule log, pies and cakes, pastry trays, rolls and more.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthallrestaurant.com) will be taking orders for sweet pies (like coconut cream, banana cream, blueberry, pumpkin, apple, pecan and more) and pork, salmon and minced meat pies. Orders can be placed up through Monday, Dec. 22, or Tuesday, Dec. 23. Belmont Hall closes at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **The Black Forest Cafe** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) will be taking orders from the bakery until Saturday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Monday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 23, and Wednesday, Dec. 24. Food and catering orders can be placed for pick-up on those three days prior to Christmas. Bakery items available for order include cookie baskets (18-piece costs \$29.95; 36-piece costs \$46.95), or by the dozen (cost \$14.95 per dozen; includes options like shortbread trees and mittens, pecan shortbread holly leaves dipped in chocolate, raspberry linzer and chocolate mint thumb-

prints and gingerbread kids), Russian tea cakes (cost \$8.95 per dozen), peanut butter balls (cost \$5.95 per half-dozen), apple pie, Dutch apple pie, cranberry apple pie, chocolate chess and gluten-free chocolate cream pies (all pies cost \$18), cranberry walnut crostata (medium costs \$18; large costs \$24) and salted caramel nut tart (\$24). Breakfast treats, like cakes, donuts, scones and cronuts are available on a "first come, first serve," basis, as are bakery items the days before Christmas. The marketplace will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Bread & Chocolate** (29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330) will be accepting orders for stollen, Yule logs, pastries and cakes for pick-up on Wednesday, Dec. 24. To guarantee an order, place it by Saturday, Dec. 20, and pick up by 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Carter Hill Orchard** (73 Carter Hill Road, Concord, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com) The bakery will be open until Sunday, Dec. 21. Advanced pie orders are recommended.

• **Common Man** (10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088, theCman.com) is offering Christmas dinners to go at its Lincoln, Concord, Claremont, Merrimack and Windham locations, as well as the Lakehouse Grille in Meredith and Foster's Boiler Room in Plymouth. The dinners to go include choice of turkey breast with cranberry sauce, gravy and sage stuffing or baked ham with maple mustard sauce, plus sides including country mashed potatoes, maple butternut squash, green beans with almonds, dinner rolls, sweet bread, and a complimentary slice of apple pie. The dinners cost \$18.95 per person (plus tax). Orders should be placed by Sunday, Dec. 21, for pick-up on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Call and place an order at the location where you'd like to pick up dinners to go.

• **Concord Food Co-op** (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) will be taking orders from its holiday menu until Monday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m., for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 23, and Wednesday, Dec. 24. The holiday menu includes fresh natural Vermont turkeys from Stonewood Farm (at \$3.58 per pound for 12- to 40-pound turkeys), desserts from the bakery (including eggnog cheesecake, chocolate decadent and chocolate obsession cakes, chocolate tart, dinner rolls, an Ultimate Cookie Platter and Bûche de Noël; also includes Café Indigo carrot cakes and chocolate raspberry indulgence cake), and holiday platters and hors d'oeuvres, like jumbo shrimp platter, grilled vegetable antipasti, deli trays and cheese boards, crab cakes with lemon aioli, stuffed

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ushrooms with meat or vegetarian stuffings, teriyaki skewers of chicken or beef and pan-seared chickpea cutlets finished with a vegan chipotle remoulade sauce.

• **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851) will be accepting orders until Monday, Dec. 22, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or on Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sweets, pies, cakes, cookies, fruit breads and meat pies are all available for holiday orders.

• **Crust & Crumb** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com) orders should be placed by Friday, Dec. 19, for pick-up in time for Christmas. The Christmas menu includes pies like apple streusel, forest berry crumb, chocolate cream (all \$16 each), maple bourbon pecan (\$20), breads and buns, including cinnamon buns and pecan sticky buns (costs \$12 for four buns), caramel pumpkin monkey bread (\$12), squash rolls (\$5.50), cardamom pulla braid (\$7) and a fruit & spice loaf (\$5.50). There are also sweets — like linzertorte (\$20), fresh fruit tart (\$25), gingerbread cheesecake layer torte with ganache (\$30), fruit cake (\$22), and flourless chocolate torte (\$20) — and savory items, including local pork pie with sweet potato, apple and rosemary (\$22), bacon, leek and Swiss quiche (\$20), and spinach, feta and marinated tomato quiche (\$20). Check out the order form online.

• **The Flying Butcher** (124 Route 101A, Amherst, 598-6328, theflyingbutcher.com) is taking orders for roasts, lamb, turkey breast, and more, along with appetizers (crudit  plat- ters, artisan cheese trays and shrimp cocktail platters) and sides, including roasted garlic smashed potatoes, garlic pepper green beans, glazed carrots, roasted root vegetables, dinner rolls, roasted Brussels sprouts, and maple bourbon sweet potatoes. Orders should be placed by Friday, Dec. 19, at the latest to guarantee platters, sides and roasts in time for Christmas.

• **Finesse Pastries** (968 Elm St., Manchester, 232-6592, finessepastries.com) is taking orders through Thursday, Dec. 18. Customers after that date will be served on a “first come, first served” basis. The Christmas Holiday menu includes sweets like apple, blueberry, pecan, pumpkin and chocolate cr me pie, cheesecake and peppermint cheesecake; specialty pastries like chocolate or praline buche de Noel, croquembuche (cream puffs filled with the flavor of your choice with caramelized sugar and Jordan almonds); as well as cookie, pastry and breakfast platters, in addition to all Finesse Pastries’ classic French cakes and pastries.

• **German John’s Bakery** (5 W. Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079, germanjohnsbakery.net) stollen and lebkuchen should be reserved as soon as possible. Other orders for items like sweet breads (including candy cane and wreath shaped sweet breads), tea rings or other bakery items should be ordered by Friday, Dec. 19, to be ready in time for Christmas.

• **Great Harvest Bread Co.** (4 Sunapee St., Nashua, 881-4422, greatharvestnashua.com) orders should be placed by Friday, Dec. 19, for pick-up on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or on Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sweets, pies, cakes, cookies, fruit breads and meat pies are all available for holiday orders.

• **Hart’s Turkey Farm** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) is accepting orders until Saturday, Dec. 20, for pick-up on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The dinner order menu includes turkey dinners from 10- to 27-pound turkeys, cooked or uncooked with stuffing and gravy, and sides like cranberry sauce, whipped potatoes, squash, green beans, rolls, cornbread and desserts (including a variety of pies, cheesecakes, sweet breads and apple crisp) can be ordered a la carte from the menu. Check out the order form online.

• **The Happy Butchers** (222 Elm St., Milford, 554-1339, facebook.com/thehappybutchers) is currently taking orders for holiday roasts, including prime rib, tenderloin roast, top sirloin spoon roast, pork butts, pork crown roasts, legs of lamb, ham and spiral ham, homemade kielbasa and sausages and more.

• **Hooked Seafood Restaurant** (110 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-1189, hookedonignite.com) and **Ignite Bar & Grille** (100 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-0064, hookedonignite.com) will be taking orders for holiday platters until Friday, Dec. 19, for pick-up on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24. Platters include roasted tenderloin of beef, poached salmon, shrimp cocktail, and family-style portions of regular menu items.

• **Just Like Mom’s Pastries** (353 Riverdale Road, Weare, 529-6667, justlikemomspastries.com) is accepting orders for desserts, pastries, cakes and pies until Saturday, Dec. 20. Just Like Mom’s will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 22; from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23; and from 6 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

• **Kay’s Bakery** (443 Lake Ave., Manchester, 625-1132) orders for cream pies, meat pies, Christmas cookies, pastry trays and more should be placed by Saturday, Dec. 20.

• **Michelle’s Gourmet Pastries & Deli** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, michellespastries.com) orders should be placed by Thursday, Dec. 18, for mini pastry platters filled with linzer bars, German chocolate bars, brownies, cannolis, eclairs, chocolate-dipped strawberries, peanut butter dream bars, petit fours and holiday cookies (18-piece costs \$15.99, 36-piece costs \$28.99, 50-piece costs \$37.99); Yule logs (cost \$29); holiday cookies in 2½ dozen or 5 dozen platters, and individual pastries, including eclairs, fresh fruit tarts, cannolis and petit fours. Orders can be placed from its regular menu as well.

• **Newell Post Restaurant** (1125 Fisherville Road, Concord, 228-0522, newellpostrestaurant.com) will be accepting

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shish, mushrooms, truffled porcini, gnocchi, toasted garlic spinach, caramelized onion, whipped potato, with red wine beef marrow sauce (costs \$200, serves 6 to 8 people). All roasts come with cooking instructions. You can also order a la carte catering, with choices like in-house butchered roasts, from rack of pork and whole beef tenderloin to leg of lamb and porchetta. Sides are available by the pound and include jumbo shrimp cocktail, risotto stuffed peppers, maple roasted sweet potatoes, and Brussels sprouts with pancetta and apple. Desserts include cannolis, macaroons, biscotti, assorted Italian cookies and more.

• **Old Tyme Butcher** (1100 Hooksett Road, Suite 111, Hooksett, 669-3001, facebook.com/oldtymebutcher) is accepting orders right up through Christmas Eve for all kinds of roasts, hams, turkeys, pork roast, crowne roasts, prime rib, tenderloin roasts and more, as well as pies from Triolo's Bakery. The shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24.

• **Queen City Cupcakes** (790 Elm St., Manchester) will be taking orders for holiday cupcakes until Saturday, Dec. 20, for pick up on Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cupcakes available on a "first come, first served" basis on Christmas Eve. Holiday cupcakes include vanilla bean, chocolate, Red Velvet, gingerbread cookie, peanut butter cup, eggnog, snowball (chocolate cake with marshmallow frosting, dipped in coconut), sugar cookie, hot cocoa, iced cranberry lemon, chocolate-covered cherry, white peppermint and gluten-free options.

• **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com) holiday pies are available to order, including chocolate cream, coconut cream, banana cream, pork pie, pecan pie, lemon meringue, Moe's apple pie, cherry pie and other varieties (all cost \$14.99 per pie), plus salmon pie (cost \$16.99), and double layer cakes (cost \$19.99), including chocolate, carrot, Black Forest, almond raspberry, chocolate raspberry, chocolate peppermint, Funny Bone and Yodel cakes. Orders should be placed with 48-hour notice prior to pick-up time. Order forms are available online or by calling the restaurant.

• **The Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be offering takeout orders of its Christmas Eve dinner menu (place orders for carryout on Christmas Eve).

• **Triolo's Bakery** (21 Kilton Road, Bedford, 232-3256, triolosbakery.com) is accepting orders until Thursday, Dec. 18, to be ready in time for Christmas for baked goods, pastries and desserts including cookies, cupcakes, pies, entremets, platters and more.

• **Tuscan Market** (63 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) is accepting orders from its holiday catering menu, which include a complimentary bottle of Italian wine with the purchase of a holiday dinner package. Dinner packages include a choice of a whole roasted turkey dinner or leoncini ham dinner (both dinner packages cost \$150, serves 6 to 8 people). The standing rib roast dinner includes Caesar salad, herb roasted

stuffed mushrooms, maple roasted sweet potatoes, and Brussels sprouts with pancetta and apple. Desserts include cannolis, macaroons, biscotti, assorted Italian cookies and more.

• **Washington Street Catering** (88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, washingtonstreetcatering.com) is taking orders from its holiday menu with a la carte and full meal options like roasted turkey dinner or maple glazed ham dinner, which costs \$13.99 per person for a party of eight to 10 people, and \$19.99 per person for a party of less than eight guests or over 10; costs an additional \$1 per person for natural turkey); beef Wellington dinner (\$22.99 per person for a party of eight to 10 guests; \$24.99 per person for parties of less than eight or more than 10 guests); and rosemary and garlic marinated rack of lamb dinner (10 person minimum, costs \$22.99 per person for a party of 10; \$24.99 per person for a party over 10). A la carte options include roasted turkey and maple glazed spiral ham (cost \$7.75 per person), beef Wellington and rack of lamb (cost \$14.99 per person), a selection of three sides (costs range from \$1.50 to \$3.25 each) as well as 10-inch pumpkin, apple and pecan pies (cost \$18 each). Orders must be placed within 72 hours notice ahead of pick-up time.

• **Wicked Good Butchah** (450 Route 101, Bedford, 488-1832, wickedgoodbutchah.com) is currently taking orders for pick up on Wednesday, Dec. 24. In addition to the catering menu (which includes deli meat platters, cold salads, pastas, cacciatore and more), boneless and bone-in prime rib roasts, tenderloin roasts, Boar's Head hams and sirloin roasts are also available to order.

• **The Wine'ing Butcher** (16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 856-8855; 254 Wallace Road, Bedford, 488-5519, thewineingbutcher.com) is currently accepting orders from its holiday menu, including legs of lamb, turkeys and hams. Orders can also be placed for starters, including bacon wrapped scallops, stuffed brie, sausage stuffed mushrooms, exotic holiday meats (including goose, duck, quail and rabbit), breads, rolls and pies. Orders should be placed as soon as possible.

• **Wellington's Marketplace** (124 N. Main St., Concord, 715-1191, wellingtonsmarketplace.com) requires 24 hours notice in advance for cheese platters, and catering requires 48 hours notice for parties of 10 people or more. Wellington's Marketplace will be closing at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. 

shire Wine Week approaching at the end of January, it's the perfect time to brush up on your cabernets, sauvignon blancs and merlots. WineNot Boutique (170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, winenotboutique.com) will be offering a four-week Wine 101 Course with owner, sommelier and wine educator Svetlana Yanushkevich. The classes meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuition for the course costs \$120 (which includes all four classes, wines and food pairings for each class) or \$30 per individual class. WineNot Boutique will also be offering a four-week Powerful Cabs Wine Course February through March, which will feature six cabernet sauvignons, cheeses, light appetizers and chocolate in each class.

• **Christmas baking:** With Christmas around the corner, there are plenty of baking and cooking classes kids can participate in. The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, culinary-playground.com) is holding a **graham cracker gingerbread house decorating event** on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 9:30 a.m. and again on Friday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. for ages 3 to 6 years old with parent helpers. The class costs \$20, and registration is required. Then on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m., older kids (ages 8 and up) and adult teams can work together to make **gingerbread houses from scratch**.

It costs \$65 per team (maximum team size is three people). Registration is required. Sophisticakes Bakery & Cafe (25 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 898-2442, facebook.com/sophisticakesofwindhamnh) will be holding **gingerbread house decorating** on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. with a hot cocoa bar. Registration is required, and costs \$36. Kids can then **bake cookies for Santa** on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Sophisticakes. Class sizes are limited and parents should register children for one of the following three one-hour classes at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon. Tuition costs \$25.

• **Clarification:** The story "Oil up your holiday cooking," on olive oils and olive oil businesses in southern New Hampshire, which appeared in the Dec. 4 issue, featured three southern New Hampshire businesses including Cava de Vino in Nashua, Celeste Oliva in Concord and Cucina Aurora in Salem. While both Cava de Vino and Celeste Oliva are retail stores, Cucina Aurora is not. Cucina Aurora products and infused olive oils are available at other local retailers. Cucina Aurora (9 Delaware Drive, Suite 1, Salem, 458-6159, cucinaaurora.com) will be open for an Open Cupboard event on Friday, Dec. 19, for guests to visit the business and sample olive oils and other products.

Food Lectures/author events/ festivals/fairs

• **VINTAGE CHRISTMAS GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** will be on display at the Discover Portsmouth Center (10 Middle St., Portsmouth) during Portsmouth's Vintage Christmas on weekends from noon to 8 p.m. ending on Sun., Dec. 21. Visit vintagechristmasnh.org.
• **EMPTY BOWLS** Wed., Feb. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Nashua High School South (36 Riverside St., Nashua). Benefits Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter with soups from area restaurants and clay bowls made by students, faculty, staff and National Art Honors Society members. Visit nshs.org.
• **WORLD OF CHOCOLATE** Exhibit at the Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org. Includes the history of chocolate and the chocolate industry plus celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. On exhibit through Jan. 31, 2015. Admission costs \$6 (\$5 for seniors, \$4 for children).

Chef events/special meals
• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** Dinner theatre performances on Thurs., Dec. 18, at

Old Salt Restaurant (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 926-0330, oldsaltnh.com). Doors open at 5:30 p.m., showtime at 6 p.m., includes three-course dinner, live music and holiday carols. Tickets cost \$39.99 (tax and gratuity not included). Reservations required.
• **JINGLE BALL HOLIDAY PARTY** Fri., Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com). Includes four-course dinner, cocktail hour and dancing until 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$55. Reservations required.
• **FEAST OF SEVEN FISHES** Sun., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. at Pasquale's Ristorante (143 Raymond Road, Candia, 483-5005, pasqualeincandia.com). Authentic Italian dinner with dishes and wine from the region of Campania. Cost \$65 (tax and gratuity not included). Reservations required.
• **FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES** Wed., Dec. 24, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Tuscan Kitchen (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com). Five-course dinner cost \$55 per person.
• **FEAST OF SEVEN FISHES** Wed., Dec. 24, with seatings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (seating times every half-hour) at Campo Enoteca (969 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0256, campoenoteca.com). Menu includes amuse

bouche, antipasti, pasta, fish entree, salad and dessert. Cost \$45. Reservations required.
• **NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA** Wed., Dec. 31, and Thurs., Jan. 1, at Mill Fall's at the Lake (312 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-7006, millfalls.com) with dining, dancing, live music, champagne toast and brunch buffet at Lakehouse Grille. Tickets for gala and overnight package start at \$329 for one night. Reservations required.
• **NEW YEAR'S DINNER THEATRE** Wed., Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. and Thurs., Jan. 1, at noon at The Executive Court Banquet Facility (1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester). Tickets cost \$50 on New Year's Eve, and \$35 on New Year's Day. Dinner theatre performance by Majestic Theatre, also includes raffle prizes. Call the box office at 669-7469 or visit majestictheatre.net. Reservations required 24 hours in advance.
• **TALL GRANITE JAZZ BRUNCH** Sun., Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. at Woodstock Inn Station function room (135 Main St., N. Woodstock) with omelet bar, waffle station, buffet and more. Brunch costs \$25. Unlimited Bloody Mary's, bellinis and mimosas cost an additional \$10. Visit jeans-playhouse.com.
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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH **DAWN HUNT**

Dawn Hunt is the owner of Cucina Aurora (9-11 Delaware Drive, Suite 1, Salem, 458-6159, cucinaaurora.com), a New Hampshire Made company that sells infused olive oils, cooking mixes and risotto. Hunt comes from an Italian family, and her earliest memory in the kitchen is of making Christmas cookies with her grandmother and mother. She's always been cooking, which is why her husband encouraged her to start Cucina Aurora eight years ago. She was also voted one of the top 100 cooks in the country for the fourth season of *MasterChef*, but she was cut in the top 40. "I'm just someone who loves to cook and more importantly loves to gather people around a good meal," Hunt said. "If you're preparing it and sharing it with love, then you're already a success."



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What is your must-have kitchen item?

No. 1, a wooden spoon. And I would say a very sharp chef's knife. If I have those two things I can make you anything.

What would you choose for your last meal?

The first thing that pops into my head is a beautiful meat lasagna covered in gravy with a side of tomato bruschetta and a side salad and a glass of cabernet.

Favorite restaurant besides your own?

Burton's Grill. I have a gluten allergy and they have the best [gluten-free] menu I've found. Period. And they'll make you anything.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?

Not so much that I'd want to see him walk into Cucina Aurora but that I'd want to cook for him. Nathan Fillion.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

I think the biggest food trend is olive oil. I'm getting so many calls about olive oil.

When I started this eight years ago, I was the only game in town. ... I think olive oil is really trending, and I think that's good for me, but I think it's trending for sure. I'm lucky to be a part of that trend.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

I think that depends on the season for me. I cook very, very seasonally. Right now it's all about soup and chowder. For the winter, Italian wedding soup — that's the thing I'm craving right now — or pasta fagioli and lentil and sausage. Those are the three I made yesterday. ... The soup and the stews, anything I can cook all day where I can tend to it ... there's something about every time you walk into the kitchen you have to stir it, and that's a very loving process.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?

The rosemary oregano infused olive oil is my favorite. ... I roast my meats in it, I'll use it in a salad dressing. It's just hearty and warming and it tastes like home.

— Emelia Attridge

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Pork Tenderloin

Recipe from the kitchen of Dawn Hunt.
"This ridiculously easy pork tenderloin is perfect to impress your holiday guests or to spruce up your weeknight dinner. Serve with your favorite sides and enjoy! I must say it is a great match with our very own sweet potato and sage risotto," Hunt said.

- 1 to 2 pound pork tenderloin (no bone)
- 2 tablespoons Cucina Aurora Toasted Onion Dip
- 2 to 3 tablespoons Cucina Aurora Rosemary & Oregano Infused Olive Oil
- 2 cups red wine

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Rub pork loin with onion mix. In a large skillet set on medium high heat, heat two tablespoons olive oil. Sear pork on all sides in the skillet until browned on all sides. Remove from skillet and place in an oven-safe baking dish. Drizzle pan drippings, extra one tablespoon of olive oil over the pork. Pour the wine over the pork. Cover with foil and place in hot oven and bake 40 to 60 minutes until meat is tender and cooked through. Remove to serving platter and scrape all of the pan drippings on the pork for best flavor. Serve hot and enjoy.

ery Stick Café (24 S. Main St., Concord, 410-3099, concordfoodcoop.coop) offers a brunch buffet every Sun., 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Build-your-own omelet station.

Church/charity suppers/ bake sales

• **BRUNCH WITH SANTA BENEFIT** Sun., Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Speaker's Corner Restaurant at Crowne Plaza

Hotel (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 886-1200). Crowne Plaza Hotel donates 15-percent of every adult brunch purchase to the Ending Homelessness Fund of Harbor Homes. Call on

Pesci party

Get your fill of fish at a traditional Christmas Eve dinner

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Forget eight maids-a-milking or six geese-a-laying. Enjoy seven fishes-a-cooking this Christmas Eve for *festa dei sette pesci*, the traditional Italian Feast of the Seven Fishes.

The multi-course dinner celebration has its root in the Roman Catholic tradition of abstaining from eating meat on certain holy days when a number of fish dishes would cover the table instead. The reason behind the number seven is unknown; some believe it represents the seven sacraments and others the seven days of creation. Regardless of how exactly it came to be, the Feast of the Seven Fishes is a Christmas Eve tradition that brings together, family, friends and lots of fish.

Pasquale Celone, chef owner of Pasquale's Ristorante, has hosted a Feast of the Seven Fishes for the past 14 years as a way to bring his family traditions to his patrons and give them a chance to reflect on their own celebrations.

"It kind of reminds a lot of people. ... They had this feast when they were growing up so they are really excited about when we are getting together," he said in a phone interview. "It's not just a dinner; we actually sit down at 1 [p.m.] and don't get out until 6 [p.m.], but people, they really enjoy that."

Growing up in Campania, Italy, Celone's family served seven to 10 fish courses for the feast and would sit at the table from 7 to 11:30 p.m. before going to the evening



Spaghetti alle vongole at Pasquale's Ristorante. Courtesy photo.

Mass.

Edward Aloise, chef and co-owner of Campo Enoteca and Republic, grew up celebrating the Feast of the Seven Fishes at his grandmother's house in New York City. This will be the first feast at Campo Enoteca.

"Campo Enoteca is a real statement of contemporary, Italian food," Aloise said in a phone interview. "We're here to showcase Italian food. We'd be negligent not to do it."

When it comes to what fish dishes to serve, every restaurant (or family) does it differently.

"If you were celebrating in Longoria in the northwest of Italy the fishes on your table would be different [than] if you were in Sicily," Aloise said.

Campo Enoteca's menu will feature day boat scallop stuffed marinated mushrooms, Maine Hollander mussels, shrimp scampi and swordfish Milanese.

"The seven fishes is most traditionally from the Campania area where I'm from," Celone said. "We'll have fried anchovies, octopus salad, marinated mussels, angel hair pasta with clams, and grilled swordfish."

One thing that both Celone and Aloise said is a must-have for a Feast of the Seven Fishes is Baccala — salted cod.

"You will be eating salt cod of some kind," Aloise said. "That's one of the staples."

Whether your family cooks a feast at home or is looking to start a new tradition, the Feast of the Seven Fishes is open to all. "It's a sign of community, tradition, it's something that [binds] families together," Aloise said. "You don't have to be Catholic or Italian. It's one of those gather-around-the-campfire things." 🍷

Feast of the Seven Fishes dinners

Campo Enoteca

Where: 629 Elm St., Manchester
When: Wednesday, Dec. 24, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$45 per person
See: 625-0256, campenoteca.com
Reservations for any size party will be taken starting at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m. Deadline is Christmas Eve morning.

Tuscan Kitchen

Where: 67 Main St., Salem
When: Wed., Dec. 24, from 3 to 9 p.m.
Tickets: \$55 per person
See: 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com
Reservations required.

Pasquale's Ristorante

Where: 143 Raymond Road, Candia
See: 483-5005, pasqualeincandia.com
Dinner is sold out, though there is a wait list. Call for updates.

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Clementines

Oh my darling clementines! If there's one consolation for the serious chill in the air, it is the clementine. Gone are the days of fresh produce from my backyard and juicy peaches from the tree in my neighbor's yard. Honestly, if it weren't for the clementine, it would be a dark time. I absolutely love fruit, and it makes me so sad to bite into something that is so not in season.

We call them clementines, but these tiny orange balls of deliciousness are part of the larger citrus group of mandarin oranges. Also in this delightful citrus family are well-known varieties like the tangerine and the Satsuma. Even among clementines, there are varieties like the clemenule, which is probably what I am eating today,



according to the Cuties brand website.

For the most part, clementines should just be peeled and consumed (and, may I add, *en masse*). Apart from their original and wonderful form, there are a couple other things one can do with them. From making winter sangria to adding them to salads or stir-fry, these little guys are quite versatile. I'm actually enjoying my surplus in a smoothie this morning, and I've provided the recipe below. Enjoy the citrus of the season!

— Allison Willson Dudas

Clementine smoothie

2 clementines, peeled
½ banana, peeled
Either ½ cup frozen strawberries or ½ cup

frozen pineapple slices
¼ cup vanilla yogurt

Blend together and enjoy! Play with the ratios to get the smoothie just right.

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Food classes/workshops

• **HOLIDAY DESSERTS** Sat., Dec. 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chez Boucher (32 Depot Square, Hampton, 926-2202, chezboucher.com). Class costs \$99.

• **SCUOLA CULINARIA: RISOTTO** Class with dinner on Mon., Jan. 5, at 6 p.m. at Tuscan Market, 63 Main St., Salem. Class costs \$125. Call 912-5467 or visit tuscanbrands.eventbrite.com.

• **SCUOLA CULINARIA: CAPPELLACCI** Class with dinner on Mon., Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. at Tuscan Market, 63 Main St., Salem. Class costs \$125. Call 912-5467 or visit tuscanbrands.eventbrite.com.

• **MACARON CLASS** Tues., Jan. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Finesse Pastries (968 Elm St., Manchester, 232-6592, finessepastries.com). Make French macarons from scratch, with wine and cheese refreshments. Tickets cost \$60. Space is limited; reservations required.

• **FOOD EVENT** Wed., Jan. 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with Trudy

Brown of Obsessive Compulsive Gingerbread with information on gingerbread house construction, recipes and tastings at Durham Public Library, 49 Madbury Road, Durham. Free admission. Contact Armida Geiger at 868-6699. Bring non-perishable for food collection for local pantries.

Regular monthly/weekly cooking classes/workshops

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition. See myamarket.com.

• **BEDFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION** Classes offered out of Bedford High School (103 County Road, Bedford, 472-3755). For information, contact Susan Sambrano at sambranos@sau25.net or phone 714-4395. Visit sau25.net/BedfordHigh.cfm and click on Community Enrichment Program under the Community link.

• **BEDFORD ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY** meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through June at 7 p.m. at Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** One-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids and more. Chez Bouch-

er (32 Depot Square, Hampton, 926-2202) can be found online at chezboucher.com.

• **COFFEE COFFEE** Cooking classes feature a different dish, also includes cooking technique instruction. Meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Coffee Coffee (326 S. Broadway, Salem, 912-5381, coffeeoasternh.com). Cost \$30, call in advance.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop), holds regular series on wellness, green living and cooking. Even free classes require registration. Visit concordfoodcoop.coop for schedule. Interested teachers can contact the Co-op Wellness Coordinator, Maria Noël Groves at 410-3099.

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASS** ES Liz Barbour's Creative Feast offers classes and demonstrations held at libraries and community centers throughout the state. Email lizb@thecreativefeast.com or visit thecreativefeast.com.

• **EXETER ADULT EDUCATION** Cooking classes offered at Tuck Learning Center (30 Linden St., Exeter) Sessions on baking, global cuisine and more. Dates and fees at 775-8457, tgluck@sau16.org or adulted.sau16.org.

• **FARM FOOD, GARDEN TO TABLE** Chefs at Moulton Farm (18 Quarry Road, Mer-

French toast bake

This past weekend I had a surprise visitor. On Saturday afternoon, my younger sister called to see if she could come visit (and do her laundry) and spend the night. I welcomed the visit but quickly realized my pantry wasn't exactly stocked with the necessities for hosting weekend guests.

She didn't arrive until late on Saturday, so the first meal I had to worry about was Sunday brunch. Now, my sister plays college basketball and can put away more than a few helpings in one sitting. At first, I panicked, thinking I wasn't going to have enough to feed her, even for a short time.

But then I stumbled across this recipe on Facebook, of all places, for a French toast bake. My sister and I consider ourselves French toast aficionados, and this recipe held up to our strict scrutiny. The recipe made enough to feed an entire family, and would be perfect for a holiday brunch, or even a holiday office potluck if it's early in the day.

The bake comes together almost like monkey bread, with layers of bread, butter and sugar. A pinch of cinnamon and a sprinkle of powdered sugar before serving make each bite better than the last.

My favorite thing about this recipe is that it came together with things I had in



my pantry and refrigerator. For a holiday version I'll probably use thicker toast, like a Texas toast or sourdough, but my pantry was only stocked with basic white bread, and that worked just fine. Everything else I had on hand, left over from the holiday baking that began before Thanksgiving.

While this recipe appears to be for basic French toast, the fact that it is layered and baked takes it to the next level. It's more dense and packed with flavor. The butter and brown sugar combination make each bite sweet and syrupy, without the guilt of pouring a bottle of maple syrup on your plate. And since I had run out of syrup before the weekend, this recipe was even more perfect.

The eggs and vanilla gave the bake the classic French toast flavor, as did the cinnamon and powdered sugar. The bake was simple, delicious and pantry-friendly, plus it can feed a hungry crowd — or sister — with minimal effort. This would be perfect for a hectic holiday morning. Pop it in the oven, finish opening presents or playing games, and come back to a warm, homemade breakfast that's sure to put everyone in the holiday spirit. — *Lauren Mifsud*

French toast bake

Courtesy of Lei Adams, Recipes Unpinned

- 1/2 cup melted butter (1 stick)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 loaf of thickly sliced bread
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Powdered sugar for sprinkling
- Cinnamon for sprinkling

Melt butter in microwave and stir in brown

sugar until mixed. Pour the mixture into a 9x13 pan and spread evenly. In a bowl, beat eggs, milk and vanilla. Layer single slices of bread into the pan over the sugar mixture. Spoon half of the egg mixture over the bread and sprinkle with cinnamon. Repeat with a second layer of bread and the remaining egg mixture. For best results, cover and chill in fridge overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Before serving, sprinkle with powdered sugar and cinnamon. Serve with maple syrup if desired.

edith, 279-3915) hold regular workshops, demonstrations, and events on preparing healthy dishes using farm-raised ingredients. Some classes have fees. Check moultonfarm.com; call the farm or email robbmoultonfarm@metrocast.com for details and reservations.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** One-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Frederick's Pastries (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725) offers demonstrations reg-

ularly or by appointment. Check pastry.net or call to schedule.

• **HANNAFORD SUPER-MARKETS** offer free classes on stretching your food budget, healthy cooking, time-saving meals and more. See hannaford.com and click on "health & nutrition" for classes at the Hannaford near you.

• **SOPHISTICAKES** Baking and cooking classes and birthday parties, 25 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 898-2442, facebook.com/SophisticakesOf-

WindhamNh.

• **NO-BAKE COOKING** First and third Tues. of the month at 3:30 p.m. for kids ages 8 and older at the Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. See wiltonlibrarynh.org. Registration required.

• **WINTERGREEN BOTANICALS** Herbalist Maria Noël Groves holds regular classes all over the state on the use of herbs for better health. Contact her at 340-5161 or see schedule at wintergreenbotanicals.com.

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Holiday cocktails

Special recipes for special occasions

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

It's the holiday season and that means parties, festivities and indulgences. I am not typically a cocktail drinker, but I make an exception this time of year.

Here are some holiday cocktail ideas, with

some incorporating locally made wine and spirits. Please note that many of these recipes make one serving, so you'll need to adjust if you are using them for a holiday gathering.

Nips are one of my favorite things this time of year, because I can try a new recipe without buying an entire bottle that I might never use again. 🍷

Spiced Caramel Apple

Recipe courtesy of LaBelle Winery

3 ounces LaBelle Winery Dry Apple
1 ounce vanilla vodka
1 ounce fresh apple cider
½ ounce Buttershots

½ ounce simple syrup
Pinch of ground ginger

Mix all ingredients over ice in a shaker and shake for at least 10 seconds. Strain into a martini glass rimmed with caramel and crushed ginger snap cookies. Makes one serving.

The Perfect Storm

Recipe courtesy of Sap House Meadery

Two parts Sap House Meadery Sugar

Maple
One part ginger beer

Pour ingredients over ice and enjoy! Makes one serving.

Mulled Sap House Mead

Recipe courtesy of Sap House Meadery

4 ounces Sap House Meadery Sugar Maple
1 ounce port
1 ounce water
1 teaspoon real maple syrup
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Spices to taste: cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks

Combine all of the ingredients in a small saucepan and heat to desired temperature, but do not boil. Serve in mugs (not wine glasses) and garnish with a cinnamon stick if desired.

Piping Hot Pinot

Recipe courtesy of Barefoot Wine & Bubbly

5 ounces Barefoot Pinot Noir
6 fresh or frozen (thawed) cherries, pitted
6 dashes each: ground clove, cinnamon, nutmeg
2 heaping tablespoons brown sugar
1 ounce cranberry juice
1 ounce orange juice

Place cherries in a large microwave-safe container. Add spices, brown sugar and juices. Microwave for one minute on high. Lightly mash cherries with a fork or muddler. Add the wine and microwave for another one to two minutes, making sure it doesn't bubble over. Stir and pour entire mixture into a mug. Serve hot. Makes one serving.

Cosmopolitan

Recipe courtesy of Flag Hill Winery

2 ounces General Stark Vodka
½ ounce Cointreau or triple sec

½ ounce Flag Hill Cranberry Liqueur
½ ounce fresh lime juice

Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a lime.

Classic Eggnog*

Recipe courtesy of Martha Stewart

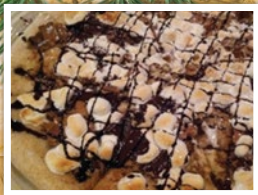
2 quarts whole milk
2 2/3 cups sugar
1 vanilla bean, split with seeds scraped
16 large egg yolks
2 cups cold heavy cream
½ cup bourbon
½ cup dark rum

into yolks in a slow, steady stream, whisking. Return milk-yolk mixture to pan and cook over medium-low heat, whisking often, until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon (about 20 minutes). Do not let simmer. Pour through a fine sieve into a bowl; discard bean. Whisk in cream, bourbon and rum. Let cool completely. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until cold, about one hour. Lasts up to one day. Serve sprinkled with nutmeg. Makes 12 servings.

**The NH Liquor and Wine Outlets also sell a variety of different eggnogs this time of year, including Southern Comfort & Egg Nog, peppermint chocolate and pumpkin. This is the easy way to enjoy it without all of the work!*

Freshly grated nutmeg for garnish
Heat milk, sugar, vanilla bean and seeds in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, whisking until sugar has dissolved. Whisk yolks in a large bowl. Pour hot milk mixture

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DRINK



RED, WHITE
& GREEN

Bottles for the budget-conscious wine-lover

This week, we tried two reds that would make nice companions to your holiday meal, especially if beef or ham is on the menu.

The Bonny Doon 2013 **Clos de Gilroy** (\$17.99 on sale, regularly priced \$19.99) from Monterey County is 75 percent grenache, 17 percent syrah and 8 percent mourvedre. This wine had a deep burgundy color and a nose that brought to mind cherry, black pepper and cedar. A bit tight when opened, this wine opened up into something that had us thinking of Rhone blends. Dry and a bit gamy, this French-ish California wine was balanced with a good amount of acid that would make it a good complement to pulled pork, ham and other big-flavored, fatty cuts.

The Carol Shelton Wines' 2012 **Wild Thing Old Vine Zinfandel** (\$17.99 on sale, regularly priced \$19.99) from Mendocino County is a light, cherry red-colored zin with a very cherry nose — we got aro-



mas of ripe cherry and ripe plum. The wine itself was a very round wine — fruity but dry, big and bold with tannins and spice. If you like zins you'll like this wine — but if you like big reds, you'll probably still like this wine, which we think would go well with a roast beef or other red-meat-centered holiday meal.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than \$20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet. 🍷

Drink

Beer/wine dinners

• **JINGLE BALL HOLIDAY PARTY** Fri., Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com). Includes four-course dinner, cocktail hour and dancing until 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$55. Reservations required.

Beer/wine festivals and special events

• **4TH ANNUAL ICE BAR** Wed., Jan. 28, through Sat., Jan. 31, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com). Live music, ice bar drink specials.

• **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR** Thurs., Jan. 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Radisson Hotel Downtown Manchester, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Wine tastings from over 1,500 wines, plus winemakers and food from area restaurants. Tickets cost \$65, or \$125 for access to both the Grand Tasting and Bellman's Cellar Select. Visit easterseals.com/nh or call 888-368-8880.

• **PINT NITE** Thursdays at 7 p.m. at The Holy Grail (64 Main St., Epping, NH 03042, 679-9559, holygrailrestaurantandpub.com). Pints cost \$4 for special brew and includes glass.

• **SCIENCE ON TAP** Held the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at The Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, NH 03101, 625-0246), lecture and presentation on a different month topic presented by SEE Science Center. Visit seesciencecenter.org.

Beer/wine tasting classes

• **WINE 101** Four-week course with sommelier Svetlana Yanushkevich at WineNot Boutique (170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, winenotboutique.com) runs Tuesdays, Jan. 6, through Jan. 27, and covers themes like "Tasting Like a Pro & Sommelier Secrets" and "Food and Wine Pairing & Enjoying Wines with Cheese and Chocolate." The four-week course costs \$120, or \$30 per class. Registration required.

Beer/wine making classes

• **HAPPY NEW BEERS** Thurs., Jan. 8, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, NH 03060, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Brew six new recipes with snacks and refreshments. Cost \$30 per variety case (bottles not included). Registration required.

• **DARK AND STORMY NIGHT BREWFESTS** Thurs., Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. and Fri., Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, NH 03060, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Advanced beer drinker and brewing class, costs \$65 for two cases of beer (bottles not included in price). Registration required.

• **ABE'S ALEFEST** Thurs., Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, NH 03060, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Brew pale ales, amber and brown ales. Costs \$35 for variety case of beer (bottles included).

Return in two weeks to bottle. Registration required.

Beer/wine/liquor tastings

• **DOGFISH HEAD** tasting on Thurs., Dec. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.

• **SMUTTYNOSE** tasting on Thurs., Dec. 18, at Whole Foods, 255 Amherst St., 318-7550, Nashua, wholefoodsmarket.com.

• **HOLIDAY TASTING** various beers on Thurs., Dec. 18, at Top Shelf Brews, 826 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-2894, topshelfbrewstore.com.

• **WINE TASTING** on Thurs., Dec. 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. of IncrediBREW wines for Humane Society of Greater Nashua at NH Liquor & Wine Outlet, 212 Lowell Road, Hudson. Visit incredibrew.com.

• **WINE TASTING** on Fri., Dec. 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. of IncrediBREW wines for Humane Society of Greater Nashua at NH Liquor & Wine Outlet, 21 Jones Road, Milford. Visit incredibrew.com.

• **UINTA** Big bottle tasting on Fri., Dec. 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Drinkery, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 434-1012, thedrinkeryshop.com.

• **WINE TASTING** on Sat., Dec. 20, from noon to 2 p.m. of IncrediBREW wines for Humane Society of Greater Nashua at NH Liquor & Wine Outlet, 269 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua. Visit incredibrew.com.

bite-sized lessons

Easy Healthy Holiday Swaps

It's easy to go overboard during the holidays. With a few easy calorie-cutting swaps, you and your guests can enjoy your favorite foods with less guilt.



Let's talk turkey! Opt for skinless breast meat over dark meat to save fat and calories. 3 ounces of dark meat has 147 calories and 5 grams of fat (1.5g sat fat) while lighter breast meat has 125 calories and 1.8 grams of fat (0.5g sat fat). Bring a deck of cards to the table - it's a good way to visualize 3 ounces.

The easiest way to cut unnecessary calories this season is to cut back on alcohol and sugary drinks. To save calories, replace 2 ounces of wine, soda or juice with club soda. For example, a 5-ounce glass of red or white wine has about 150 calories, and club soda has no calories, replacing just two ounces of the wine already saves you 60 calories.



For a healthier meal, make your own stuffing. Simply sauté celery and onions and other cubed vegetables of your choosing (from carrots to water chestnuts) in 1 to 2 tablespoons of olive or canola oil. Combine the mixture with cubes of whole-grain bread, moisten with no- or low-sodium chicken broth, and add your favorite herbs before baking. This healthy version has less fat, more fiber, and more flavor.

You can save about 200 calories by choosing pumpkin pie (about 300 calories a slice) over pecan pie (about 500 calories). Choosing pumpkin pie for your sweet splurge will also provide an excellent dose of vitamin a, along with some calcium and iron. Another option is to skip the crust entirely - that's where most of the fat lurks - and save another 100 or so calories.



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- Stuyvesant,
- Shmyvesant* A
- RL Grime, *Void* A

- *A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka* B+
- Top 10
- Children's Room
- Out Next Week

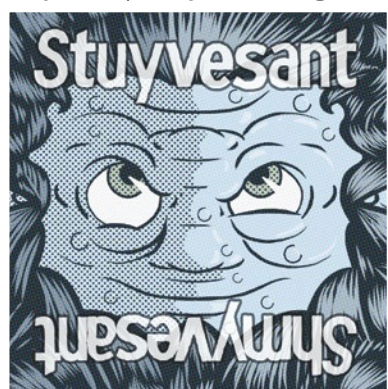
Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to lings@hippopress.com.

- *Exodus: Gods and Kings* C
- Top Five B

POP CULTURE

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Stuyvesant, *Shmyvesant* (Sugarblast Music)



These guys couldn't be peaking at a better time, and not just because indie rock has become more eye-rollingly pretentious than any given 15 minutes of *House Hunters*. I hesitate to lump them in with power-poppers; these New Joisey kids have more street in their pinkies than Dashboard could cobble together in a lifetime. Their sound is pure upscale garage, like Goo Goo Dolls duking it out with Trail of Dead in a dark alley — it's like they want to be chick magnets ("3 AM," "Hell Bent For Heather") but with some of Redd Kross's cred ("Baby Bear") and Pavement's dystopian indie-ness ("Important"). Oh, what am I doing

— the bottom line is that this sounds like a *record*, not a weird-instrument quirk-athon or a bunch of sniveling rich kids trying to justify the Vans on their feet. It's grungy, yet full of hooky riffs and choruses; they obviously tried to wring every bit of coolness out of the precious studio hours they could afford. People should really demand that stuff out of a rock band. A — *Eric W. Saeger*

RL Grime, *Void* (WeDidIt Records)



This guy's real name is Henry Steinway, whose biggest claim to fame thus far has been a team-up with Salvex on a remix of Kanye West's "Mercy" that racked up massive Soundcloud acclaim. He was a "music business major" at Northeastern in Boston, the very notion of which has to be killing off the last of the hippies, but whether or not non-clubbers and oldsters can stand the thought of it, this generation does have hip-hop in its DNA, thus a cross between IDM (intelligent dance music) and spooky, grimy trap was

going to happen no matter what. The ingredients spell success as far as I'm concerned, although I'm not going to start running around blathering about the reinvention of any wheel — but it's pretty cool. Lots of friendly IDM fractal loops in there, along with spazzy drum-roll build-ups native to trance and prog-house, that's nice, but throw in some crunked-up ghetto-lion roaring from Big Sean ("Kingpin") and dubstep (and even one-drop) breaks where they'd logically fit and there's no denying this thing's relevance to the New Silent Generation. Haters of Gaga's "Jewels and Drugs" pandering were right, yes, but hopefully they've found higher ground during this Flosstradamus-led tsunami. A

— *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Hopelessness abounds, it simply abounds! At this writing, literally no one is releasing an album during Christmas week, so we'll have to discuss other things that came out this month, such as nonsense-spewing speed-rapper **Ghostface Killah's** *36 Seasons*, from back on Dec. 9. Along with the usual non-sequitur tough-man songs like "The Dogs of War," this album yielded "Love Don't Live Here No More," a rather bouncy snap-dance tune featuring Kandace Springs, a low-level Mariah Carey soundalike who usually records for Blue Note, the big jazz record label.

• Don't worry, some nice weirdo music also came out that week, for instance Dutch minimalist weirdo **Jozef van Wissem's** new album *It Is Time For You To Return*. As you totally don't know and couldn't care less about, van Wissem plays a lute, you know, like the Three Stooges did in "Squareheads of the Round Table," except they were trying to be funny, whereas this van Wissem fellow actually believes that singing badly over mostly-lute-and-nothing else music is important stuff that impresses college chicks who wear giant glasses and \$2 pairs of Payless shoes. It could be worse, yes, but I'll take any soft target I can get this time of year.

• New York band **Parkay Quarts** released *Content Nausea* the week of the 9th. They're usually called Parquet Courts, but apparently figured that as long as they were putting out an album during the same month a Lil Wayne album was coming out, the suburban kids wouldn't care about their weird noisy dystopian pop-noise and no one would be buying it anyway, so why not mess with their own heads, right? The title track of this album sounded to me like twee-industrial with the guy from Pavement singing, in other words subdued noise-rock with a driving beat and a singer who sounds like he escaped from a casting call for *Juno II*. Still not making sense? Don't worry, this won't be on the exam.

• Let's see, what else. There was a **Mary J. Blige** album that came out the other week, titled *The London Sessions*. "Whole Damn Year" was the, um, big song from that album, so I know all you young people have been dancing the Twist to it, getting down to the rock music, warming up for the big New Year's Rockin' Eve. Wasn't Mary J Blige on some cheap SyFy movie recently about zombies, and she was dressed like Doc Holliday? No? Well, was she on — oh, same thing, she was on *The X Factor* and *American Idol*, as an assistant and a guest judge, respectively. Now that's what I call branding! — *Eric W. Saeger*

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Writing routines

Steve Hobbs on writing *New Hope*

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Manchester resident Steve Hobbs didn't sleep well in 2003; his dad, Harville Hobbs, who was an avid reader, veteran and new grandfather, was very sick, and it was all this son could think about.

So Hobbs's wife pushed him to write. She'd known he'd always wanted to be an author, having bought him Christmas presents about how to get published years before he'd completed anything. He was always starting stories, never finishing them.

But in 2003, he listened. He began writing every night before bed.

"I began writing one chapter a night. I figured I wouldn't get that much sleep anyway, but each night after that, I slept a little more," Hobbs said during an interview at Bridge Cafe in Manchester. "Whatever was going on in my brain, writing kind of relaxed me."

Soon, it became routine. He'd go to work, go home, take care of his kids, watch TV, and then once everyone was asleep, he'd write. When his dad died later that year, he kept writing. It helped him mourn, and he found the experience therapeutic.

"If I didn't write, I'd be thinking about my dad again — well, I was thinking about him anyway — but if I didn't write, it would be worse," Hobbs said. "It was an escape."

Shortly after his dad died, he finished a book. It wasn't good enough to send to a publisher, Hobbs said, but he kept at it. Throughout the next 10 years, he wrote two more books.

One was *New Hope*, a mystery based in a fictionalized version of the Maine town his father lived in. It follows 17-year-old girl Miri Jones, who discovers mutilated human remains during her morning run. The daughter of the town's police chief, Miri has always wanted to be a detective, but her father insists that she not be involved. He finds a job for her babysitting a local boy, Christopher, to keep her busy. Little does he know that Miri's relationship with Christopher, instead of halting her sleuthing, catapults her right into the action of the mystery, which involves a supernatural town secret.

The ideas for his stories are gradual; he's not sure exactly where they come from, but they often disrupt his everyday life.

"I'd be swimming laps, but I wouldn't



Steve Hobbs. Courtesy photo.

Learn more about *New Hope*

Visit hobbsspond.com.

really be swimming laps; I'd really be up on a motorcycle in the woods," Hobbs said. "At some point, when it's all connected, that's when I start putting words down.

From that point on, it's like I'm the reader. I want to see what happens when I get to the end of the story."

Toward the end of his writing *New Hope*, he found himself unemployed after a pair of shoulder surgeries and decided to use his new free time to edit the book with his wife's help.

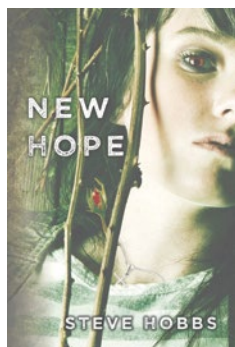
Difficulty came when he decided to publish.

"It's really hard to publish anything. It's really hard even just to get an agent," Hobbs said. "There are a lot of no's involved. You've got to be tough."

But he felt passionately about the project, and with his wife's further encouragement, he went through CreateSpace. He used one of the CreateSpace editors, put together a website and has been marketing *New Hope* himself. Kirkus Review gave the book a positive review, calling it *Salem's Lot* meets *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and local libraries and indie bookstores have been picking it up.

His only regret about writing *New Hope* is that his dad never knew.

"I never told him I was writing. I was afraid he wouldn't like it. Isn't that crazy?" Hobbs said. "My dad could have filled out a Kindle. We had trouble when he passed getting rid of all the books. ... But hopefully he knows now." 🍷



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TOP 10 Collectible Toys

For the week of Dec. 15
(barnesandnoble.com)

- 1 **The LEGO Book**
By Daniel Lipkowitz
Hardcover, 2012

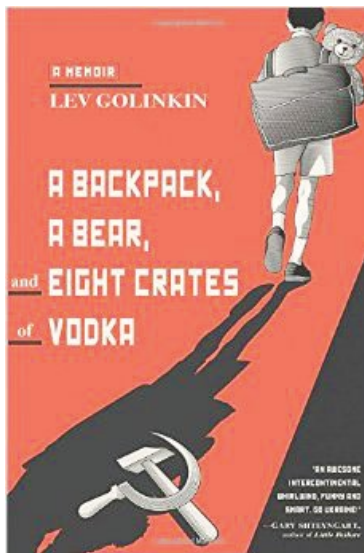
- 2 **Hot Wheels Variations, 2000-2013: Identification and Price Guide**
By Michael Zarnock
Paperback, Dec. 12, 2014
- 3 **The Ultimate Guide to Vintage Star Wars Action Figures, 1977-1985**
By Mark Bellomo
Paperback, Dec. 17, 2014
- 4 **Hello Kitty, Hello 40: A 40th Anniversary Tribute**
By Perfect Square
Hardcover, October 2014
- 5 **The Big Book of Lionel**
By Robert Schleicher
Hardcover, 2012
- 6 **Much Loved**
By Mark Nixon
Hardcover, 2013
- 7 **Star Wars: The Ultimate Action Figure Collection**
By Stephen J. Sansweet
Paperback, 2012
- 8 **The Cult of LEGO**
By John Baichtal, Joe Meno
Hardcover, 2011
- 9 **Transformers Vault: The Complete Transformers Universe - Showcasing Rare Collectibles and Memorabilia**
By Pablo Hidalgo, Peter Cullen (Foreword by)
Hardcover, 2011
- 10 **Marbles Identification and Price Guide**
By Robert Block
Paperback, 2012

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka, by Lev Golinkin (Doubleday, 303 pages)

Lev Golinkin was about to turn 9 when his parents saw a door ajar and bolted through it, upending their lives and those of their children. The year was 1989, the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev was a year old, and the United States was about to close its borders to Soviet Jews like the Golinkins, who lived in eastern Ukraine. They had one shot to get out, and only a few months to act on it.

The family's escape — and it really was an escape, a heart-pounding, Shawshankian drama — and Golinkin's later journey to thank those who helped the family get away, make for an exceptionally well-timed memoir given the turmoil in Ukraine today. The Ukraine of Golinkin's childhood is vastly different now; the town he lived in, Kharkov, is now called Kharkiv. As much as anything, he's from Joisey now.

But even though Golinkin, now 34, has never lived in an independent Ukraine, he's a historian of the troubled region, and *A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka* is an excellent refresher as the 25th anniversary of the breakup of the Soviet Union approaches. The narrative is dense but surprisingly droll, and Golinkin is a wordsmith of consider-



able gifts. (Witness this description of a beach he visited on vacation: "Giant sand dunes dotted the seascape. Most were covered with a scruff of reeds, as if the dunes themselves were on vacation and had decided to stop shaving.") His account of the events of that journey is remarkable, more so because at the time he was a child, whose choice of accompaniment was 10 toy knights and pirates, and the titular stuffed "Comrade Bear."

Even as Gorbachev was talking of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, Soviet officials were denying visa applications, shipping people who were rejected to Siberia, and destroying the scant belongings of those who did get visas as they tried to cross the border. That the Golinkins ever got visas at all was part miracle, part corruption: They had to bribe people at every step of the way, with money and vodka. (Hence the eight crates of vodka in the title — the vodka, the most honored of passengers, got to sit in the front in the van.) Golinkin's mother was a psychiatrist, his father an engineer, and his sister, 12 years older, was an engineering student; except for their Jewishness, they were not people the U.S.S.R. wanted to let go. But it was their ethnicity that made them outcasts, not their religion, for the Golinkins were not religious and didn't want to immigrate to Israel in part because of this.

"A Russian couldn't imagine kicking ham off the menu," Golinkin writes. "... We wanted ham, we craved ham, we wanted to live in a land where bacon flowed like wine, a land brimming with pork chops served in stores open on the Sabbath, and we didn't want anyone wagging their finger and informing us we were sinning."

Leaving Kharkov meant leaving friends, family and a library of books that Golinkin's father had acquired at enormous risk — you could go to prison for being caught with the wrong books — and "seeing them carted away by friends and relatives was like watching someone dismantle the sky." But leaving also meant that Golinkin would not be beaten by anti-Semitic classmates at school, and that his father — not the state — could own his work, and that his sister could study the subject she was interested in (medicine), not the one the U.S.S.R. permitted (engineering). The dangerous three-day journey from their home in eastern Ukraine to the Czechoslovakian border in the West comprises the first third of the book. The rest covers the family's assimilation, first in Vienna and then in the U.S., and Golinkin's subsequent journey (both inner and physical) to understand and appreciate his past. In this, his story is universal, not that of one family desperate to leave Eastern Europe.

"The best part of emigration was hope," he writes. Well, that, and the fact that a bullied child who left his homeland carrying just a backpack and a bear now writes international commentary for *The New York Times*. America, Golinkin demonstrates masterfully, is a very good place to be.

B+ — Jennifer Graham

CHILDREN'S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library

The Message of the Birds

Written by Kate Westerlund, illustrated by Feridun Oral, 2013

(Picture book, ages 3 and up)



The birds decide to sing a forgotten song from the first Christmas—a song with a message from the Christ child. They share their song of peace on earth with the ones they know will hear it—the children of the world. This gentle tale is a fitting read-aloud for this season of hope.

OUT NEXT WEEK

We Should Hang Out Sometime: Embarrassingly, a true story

By Josh Sundquist

Hits shelves: Dec. 23

Author best known for: Every Tuesday, Josh releases a new video to 150,000+ viewers on his YouTube channel.

One-sentence

review: "This is a unique, earnest, and funny coming-of-age story about Sundquist's experiences as a cancer survivor, amputee, Paralympic ski racer, and motivational speaker." — *School Library Journal*



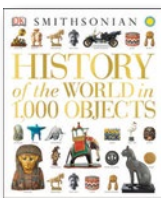
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The Accidental Highwayman by Ben Tripp



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(Age 12+)

History of the World in 1,000 Objects by The Smithsonian



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by Stephen Collins



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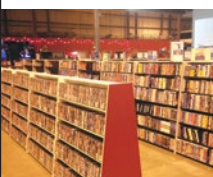
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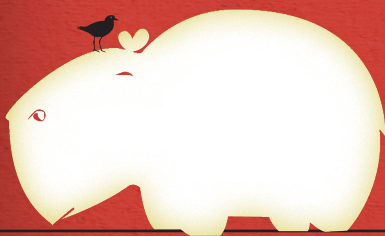
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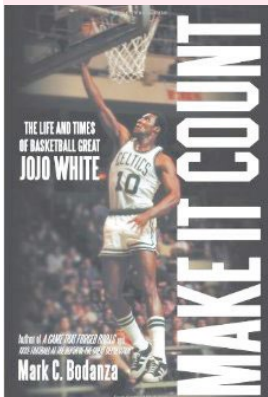
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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Book Report



• **Celtics legend JoJo White:** Author Mark Bodanza and Celtics legend JoJo White will visit Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m., to discuss and sign *Make It Count: The Life and Times of Basketball Great JoJo White*. The book, published in 2012, is a look back at White's story, which, according to the

book's description, is the "product of genuine good values." Visit barnesandnoble.com.

• **LaBelle writer's series:** LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst, has a new Sunday Granite State Authors Series that lasts Jan. 4 through June 28. The free events start at 3 p.m., with readings at 3:30 p.m. and author meet-and-greets at 4:15 p.m. Dan Szczesny will talk about *The Nepal Chronicles* on Sunday, Jan. 4 (includes a slideshow of photos from his wedding in Kathmandu and his honeymoon trek to Everest Base Camp); Jim Salmon presents *Rime of the Ancient Underwriter* Sunday, Feb. 8; Eric Poor presents *Working at the World Factory* Sunday, March 15; Henry Walters, Becky Sake-llariou and Maudelle Driskell present *Field Guide: A Tempo* Sunday, April 12; Sandy Bothmer presents *Creating a Peaceable Classroom* on Sunday, May 17; and Rodger Martin presents *The Battlefield Guide* Sunday, June 28. Visit labellewinerynh.com for more information. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author events

• **JOJO WHITE AND MARK BODANZA** Celtics legend and author talk about and sign their book, *Make It Count!*, Sat., Dec. 20, at 1 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557.
• **DAN SZCZESNY** talks about his new book *The Nepal Chronicles* at the LaBelle Winery, 345 State Route 101, Amherst, Sun., Jan. 4, at 3 p.m.
• **TESS GERRITSEN** releases newest book, *Die Again: A Rizoli and Isles Novel* Tues., Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557.
• **PETER WALLNER** talks about his new work, *Faith on Trial: Mary Baker Eddy, Christian Science and the First Amendment* Thurs., Jan. 8, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com.
• **MICHAEL ESPINOLA** talks about his book, *Clean Regime*, Sat., Jan. 10, at 1 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 235 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-0533.
• **HELEN C. HIPPO** signs and discusses *A Different Kind of Safari* Sun., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m., at Barnes

& Noble, 235 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-0533.

• **TERRY MUTCHLER** presents *Under This Beautiful Dome: A Senator, a Journalist and the Politics of Gay Love in America* at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com, Thurs., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.

• **PARKER RIGGS** presents *Finding Jessica* at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com, Fri., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

Lectures and discussions

• **WEDNESDAY'S WISDOM POTLUCK** at Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266 N. Main St., Concord, Sat., Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. Featuring speaker Jay Truesdale, topic on American foreign policy. Free event.

• **NOTORIOUS ART HEISTS** presentation by Anthony Amore, international security expert and director of security at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Tues., Jan. 6, 7-8:30 p.m., part of "Boston History Comes Alive!" series at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, library@amherstlibrary.org, amherstlibrary.org. Free, open to the public, registration required.

• **FISHING LECTURES** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, through January. "The ABCs of the Q and the Chu" by Ron Powers on the secrets of fishing Massachusetts' largest bodies of water Thurs., Jan. 8, at 7 p.m.; "Fly Fishing Strategies" by NH guide Angus Boezeman Thurs., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.; "Surf-Casting Techniques" by five-time national distance champ Ron Arra Thurs., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m.; "Kayak Fishing" with Tim Moore Thurs., Jan. 29, at 7 p.m.; and "Introduction to Fly Tying" Sat., Jan. 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration made by emailing carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org, calling or visiting nashualibrary.org.

• **DARK TIDE: THE GREAT BOSTON MOLASSES FLOOD OF 1919** presentation by Stephen Puleo, speaker and author, at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org, part of "Boston History Comes Alive!" series, Tues., Jan. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration required; call, visit the site or email library@amherstlibrary.org.

• **WINGS OF KNOWLEDGE** lecture series at New Hampshire Technical Institute, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-6484, once a month in the Library Living Room. National Engineers Week program Tues., Feb. 24, at 6 p.m.; presentation by Lynn Szymanski about furniture making in NH Tues., March 3, at 6 p.m.; NHTI foreign student presentation on Tues., April 7, at 6 p.m.; Kevin Gardner on New England stone walls Tues., April 28, at 6 p.m. All events are free, visit nhti.edu.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Wednesday afternoon book club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library, 1-3 p.m. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (call in advance). Amherst newcomers group meets Thursdays evenings at 7:30 p.m. Visit the library for titles.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Nashua Public Library for grades 8-12 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw.

• **ANIME & MANGA CLUB** is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing and workshops. Visit www.rodgerslibrary.org or call 886-6030.



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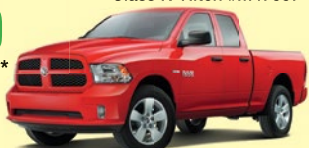
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Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13)

Christian Bale picks Moses for his unconvincing Halloween costume in *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, a movie that is just as campy as the 1956 *The Ten Commandments* but in a different way.

As young princes of Egypt, Moses (Bale) and his cousin Ramses (Joel Edgerton) hang out, doing battle with the Hittites and rolling their eyes at Ramses' dad, the pharaoh Seti (John Turturro), and his use of a flaky-seeming prognosticator (Indira Varma). One of her predictions: in the battle with the Hittites, a leader will be saved, and the savior himself will become a leader. Moses laughs it off but when that very thing happens, with him saving Ramses, the easily spooked Ramses is certain it means something.

To help the stressed Ramses out, Moses offers to go to Pithom, a city where large state construction projects are underway and the local viceroy (Ben Mendelsohn) wants more soldiers to keep down his restless Hebrew slave population. Moses doesn't think much of the viceroy, whom he is convinced is probably stealing, and meets with the Hebrew elders, including Nun (Ben Kingsley), who I came to think of as Alderman Exposition. Pulling Moses aside, Alderman Exposition tells him a fantastical story: that Moses is not, as he has always believed, the son of an Egyptian general and Seti's sister Bithia (Hiam Abbass) but he is in fact Moshe, the son of Hebrews and the brother of Miriam (Tara Fitzgerald), Bithia's handmaid who brought baby Moshe to the river where the pharaoh's daughter was bathing.

Moses doesn't exactly buy Nun's story but he also doesn't not buy it — he's always felt out of place. (Perhaps because he is a British actor failing to in any way take to mind a man of B.C. Egypt? Perhaps this is also what troubles the Australian



Exodus: Gods & Kings

Ramses....) So when the viceroy finds out the tale and TMZs it to Ramses, Moses, while calling BS on it, also eventually agrees that it is true rather than let Ramses cut off Miriam's arm as part of questioning. Ramses, who is now pharaoh himself since Seti succumbed to illness, decides that Moses' agreeing to something rather than letting a lady's arm be cut off is more of a plea-bargain situation than a bit of damning evidence and sentences Moses to banishment. Meanwhile, Ramses' scheming, never-again-seen mother Tuya (Sigorney Weaver) sends assassins after Moses to finish the job.

But Moses fights off his would-be attackers and finds a new home, a new job (shepherd) and a wife, Zipporah (Maria Valverde). Nine years post-banishment, he's a happy farming dad when an accident on a mountain leads him to talk to God (played by Isaac Andrews, who appears to be about 10 years old) and get his quest to save his people. Thus, after a good long bit of movie, do we finally get to the rivers of

blood and rain of toads and the "let my people go."

Which, come to think of it, I can't remember if Bale ever says or not but you get the idea.

So any fan of a good, campy Bible movie will be well-acquainted with the delightful ridiculousness of Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments*. You've got your hammy Charlton Heston Moses, your even hammier Yul Brynner as Ramses, and your Anne Baxter, purring and chewing the scenery like she's auditioning to replace Julie Newmar in the 1960s *Batman* TV show. (Fun fact: Baxter also appeared as a villain on the Adam West *Batman* series. Not as Nefretiri — but *Ten Commandments* Nefretiri would have fit right in as a *Batman* villain.) You've got your "so let it be written," your wonderfully terrible special effects, your everything Edward G. Robinson says.

Exodus: Gods and Kings is not campy like that. *Exodus* is deadly serious. *Exodus* white-knuckles every moment, wheth-

er it's Moses' vision of God — or is it just a head-wound-inspired delusion? — or Moses' and Ramses' whole brothers/reluctant enemies relationship. *Exodus* strains and grunts and adds gritty flourishes everywhere to make the locusts and the boils and the death of the first born all seem real and extra horrible, like the most recent chapter on the grimmest anti-hero cable show, *True Detective* meets *Walking Dead* meets this movie's director Ridley Scott's most *Black Hawk Down* tendencies. The result is, of course, ridiculous. It is the kind of unwinking campiness you don't often see anymore outside a Uwe Boll movie or, for that matter, this year's *Noah*. Apparently 2014 is the year of the big, goofy Bible movie. Sure, Scott's take on the parting of the Red Sea is fun, but it's also kind of silly. The movie has a few moments of what I'm pretty sure is intentional humor — the prognosticator tries to downplay the plagues and in the next scene we see her about to be hanged. (In fact, the cut-away-to-hanging shot is used twice for humorous-ish purposes.) But mostly, I found myself laughing at unintentional silliness, such as God-boy's discussions with Moses or the out-of-left-field very few scenes containing Sigorney Weaver.

I have great affection for the big goofy Bible movie as a genre. Perhaps this is why I found myself actually kind of enjoying small moments here. Edgerton's take on Ramses — as more of a captive of his throne than a strong-willed ruler — is weird but interesting, far more interesting than the dry-toast Moses Bale offers. And there's something sort of "huh"-able about the way the story shows Moses setting up an insurgent army, only to be told by God-child that he's taking too long and to hit the benches while He whips up some lice and hail.

Overall, however, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*' most lasting impression isn't as a tale of freedom from bondage or the cre-

REVIEWLETS

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Opening soon (It's that time of year: Oscar-hopeful movies get release dates that don't always translate into nationwide release until later in December or even the early part of 2015. Opening dates listed here are based on best available information/guessing.)

Dec. 17: *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (PG-13) The wee little book's three-movie franchise ends (yes? please say yes?) with this two-hour-and-24-minute movie.

Dec. 19: *Annie* (PG) It is a hard-knock life for Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx; *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb* (PG) Ben Stiller and the museum exhibits take the show to London.

Dec. 25: *Into the Woods* (PG-13) Meryl Streep, Anna Kendrick, Johnny Depp, Emily Blunt and more star in this adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical; *Unbroken* (PG-13) Angelina Jolie directs this based-on-the-book-of-the-same-name tale about an Olympic athlete who becomes a Japanese prisoner of war in WWII; *The Interview* (R) Seth

Rogen co-directs, co-writes and co-stars in (with James Franco) this attempt to cause a war with North Korea.

Now playing:
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG) Steve Carell, Jennifer Garner. This lightweight (very loose) adaptation of the popular kids' book plays like an OK-ish sitcom with surprising moments of charm. **B-**

*** *Big Hero 6* (PG)**
Voices of Maya Rudolph, Scott Adsit. A boy and his balloon-like

robot-friend find superhero adventure — and some emotional well-being — in San Fransokyo. **B**

*** *Birdman* (R)**
Michael Keaton, Naomi Watts. Solid performances by Keaton and the rest of the cast make this tale about a former Hollywood actor, best-known for playing a tights-wearing superhero, turned wannabe Broadway star a bit of sparkly, meta fun. **B+**

***Dumb and Dumber To* (PG-13)**
Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels. The sequel you probably

weren't praying for for the last 20 years lands with a "whatever" in this bland comedy that probably would have been best, minus some sexy-business, as a goofball family comedy. **C-**

***Fury* (R)**
Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf. "Das tank" might be the shorthand way of describing this movie about a tank crew fighting deadly battled with the nearly defeated Nazis in the spring of 1945. **B**

*** *Gone Girl* (R)**
Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike. The It Beach Read of 2012

gets a smart, fun, twisty movie adaptation. **A**

***Horrible Bosses 2* (R)**
Jason Bateman, Charlie Day. And Jason Sudeikis also returns for this very stupid but surprisingly not-terrible comedy. **C+**

***Interstellar* (PG-13)**
Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway. Bloated and a little too impressed with itself, Christopher Nolan's latest movie about a voyage into deep space could use more style and substance. **C+**



Top Five

ation of commandments (which get a Sigourney Weaver amount of screen time at the movie's end) but as an example of overly ambitious scope with limited ideas and lack of a cohesive story. **C**

Rated PG-13 for violence including battle sequences and intense images. Directed by Ridley Scott and written by Adam Cooper & Bill Collage and Jeffrey Caine and Steven Zaillian, Exodus: Gods and Kings is two hours and 30 minutes long and is distributed by 20th Century Fox.

Top Five (R)

Chris Rock explores the nature of fame and how it can infect genuine attempts at love and comedy in *Top Five*, a very nice first draft of a solid Chris Rock movie.

Andre Allen (Rock) was a hot-shot comedian who successfully parlayed his stand-up career into starring roles in the hit *Hammy* movies — movies about a police officer bear. Tired of this broad-comedy franchise, Allen has lately used his fame to star in more serious films, including mostly recently a film about the Haitian slave uprising. He wants to be known as a dramatic actor, he says, but crowds just want to see more *Hammy* the bear — a message delivered both by fans when they see him and by the lagging box office numbers and negative reviews of his more serious roles.

In fact, his most successful endeavor at the moment seems to be his very-on-camera engagement and impending marriage to Erica Long (Gabrielle Union), the star of a Bravo reality show. He might not want all of their private moments broadcast, but she tells him that if it isn't on camera, it doesn't exist. So he goes with it — he loves Erica, probably, so he puts up with the wedding. He's desperate to have one of his serious roles stick, so he does interview after interview where people ask about *Hammy*. And, even though he hates the New York Times' film reviewer, he agrees to do an interview with one of its reporters, Chelsea Brown (Rosario Dawson), because, hey, publicity.

The "interview" with Chelsea is actually an agreement to let her do a day-long ride-along. After some initial antagonism, the two come to sort of a truce: Andre will honestly answer some questions and Chelsea promises to be fair.

And thus do we get the setup for what this movie mostly is, which is them talking. Talking about comedy, about career, about sobriety (both Andre and Chelsea are alcoholics who got sober), about Andre's fears (namely that sobriety has made him unfunny) and about relationships. Andre takes Chelsea to meet some of his childhood friends, who talk to Chelsea about his nascent funniness. A lot of this talk comes off like either riffs on a stand-up routine or slightly more polished takes on real conversations Rock has probably had at some point — particularly when comedy friends such as Jerry Seinfeld, Adam Sandler and Whoopi Goldberg show up for cameos. It takes skill to make movie conversations — whether about the nature of marriage or about your personal list of top five performers — sound natural, so it's a compliment to say that much of the talk in *Top Five* has the breezy, occasionally rambling feel of real things people say to each other. That and Rock's mostly endearing persona smooth over a lot of rough spots, such as some of the when-a-man-writes-a-woman qualities of Dawson's character and a very iffy plot point involving journalistic funny business. But then DMX shows up and sings something from the Great American songbook and I found it easy to forgive.

Top Five isn't a perfect movie — it could have used another draft or two, with a critical eye focused specifically on some of the more melodramatic parts of Dawson's character and story line — but it is a solid comedy by a comedian who should definitely do more like this please. **B**

Rated R for strong sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language throughout and some drug use. Written and directed by Chris Rock, Top Five is an hour and 42 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures. 🍷



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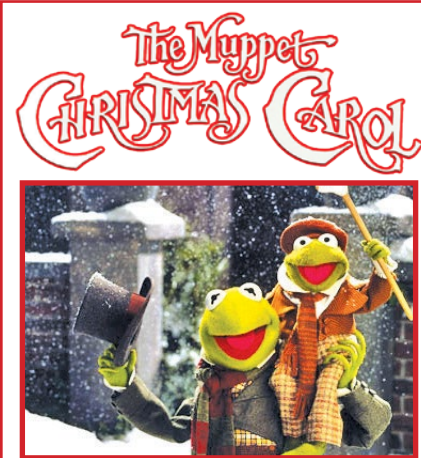
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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Suite L1-1, Concord, NH 03301, redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600

• *The Theory of Everything* (PG-13, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 2:05, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 19, at 2, 5:15 & 8:05 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 20, at 2, 5:15 & 8:05 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 & 5:15 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 22, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; & Tues., Dec. 23, at 2 p.m.

• *The Homesman* (R, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 19, at 1:15, 3:40, 6:05 & 8:25 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 20, at 1:15, 3:40, 6:05 & 8:25 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 6:05 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 22, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:55 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 23, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:55 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 24, at 2:10 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 25, at 5:35 & 7:55 p.m.

• *The Babadook* (NR, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 2:10 p.m.

• *The Taming of the Shrew* (NR, 1967) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 6 p.m.

• *Wild* (R, 2014) Fri., Dec. 19, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 20, at 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 22, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 23, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 24, at 2:05 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 25, at 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• *Remember the Night* (NR, 1940) Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 & 4 p.m.

• *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (G, 1992) Tues., Dec. 23, at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; & Wed., Dec. 24, at 2 p.m.

• *The Imitation Game* (PG-13, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 25, at 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

40 Main St., Wilton, NH 03086, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com

• *The Theory of Everything* (PG-13, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

• *The Homesman* (R, 2014) Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 18-20 at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.; Mon.-Tues., Dec. 22-23, at 7:30 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Diplomacy* (with subtitles) Fri.-Sat., Dec. 19-20, at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.; Mon.-Tues., Dec. 22-23 at 7:30

p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Christmas in Connecticut* (1945) Sat., Dec. 20, at 4:30 p.m.

• *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) Sun., Dec. 21, at 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

44 S. Main St., Concord, NH 03301, 225-1111, ccanh.com

• *Skylight* (National Theatre Live) Sun., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.

CONCORD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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• *Joyeux Noel* commemorative film about Christmas Truce in 1914, Sat., Dec. 20, 6-8 p.m., free

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, NH 03104, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us

• *The Amazing Spiderman 2* (PG-13, 2014) Wed., Jan. 7, at 1 p.m.

• *Selma Lord Selma* (PG, 1999) Wed., Jan. 14, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, NH 03102, 624-6560, manchester.lib.nh.us

• *Dolphin Tale 2* (PG, 2014) Fri., Dec. 19, at 3 p.m.

• *Penguins of Madagascar: Operation Special Delivery* (PG, 2014) Fri., Dec. 26, at 3 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH 03110, 472-2300, bedfordnhlibrary.org

• *Movie night* Thurs., Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Penguins of Madagascar: Operation Special Delivery* (PG, 2014) Tues., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, NH 03301, onconcord.com/library, 225-9670, call 230-3682 for titles

• *Movie night* Thurs., Dec. 18,

at 6:30 p.m.

• *Kids movies* Mon., Dec. 22, at 2 p.m.

HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, NH 03106, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org. Free films and popcorn.

• *Children's movie* Mon., Dec. 29, at noon

CHUNKY'S CINEMA

151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, NH 03064, 880-8055, chunkys.com

• *A Christmas Story* (PG, 1983) Thurs., Dec. 18

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, NH 03060, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The two series run from October to May.

• *The Lorax* (PG, 2012) Sat., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m.

• *101 Dalmatians* (G, 1961) Sat., Dec. 27, at 2 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, NH 03801, 436-2400, themusichall.org. Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH 03801

• *The Skeleton Twins* (R, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

• *La Chambre Bleue* (R, 2014) Fri., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.

• *White Bird in a Blizzard* (R, 2014) Sat., Dec. 27, at 3 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 28, at 3 p.m. & Tues., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.

• *Tracks* (PG-13, 2013) Tues., Dec. 30, at 1 & 7 p.m.

THE FLYING MONKEY

39 S. Main St., Plymouth, NH 03264, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com

• *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) Fri., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., free holiday movie series

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• **Festive notes:** Capping a busy year of album-making and international touring, **Brad Myrick** performs a few evenings of Christmas selections, beginning with a hometown restaurant/bar. The jazz guitarist later brings his holiday program (and promised special guests) to The Local in Warner on Dec. 20 and Alan's of Boscawen for a Christmas Eve set. See Brad Myrick on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. at Red Blazer, 72 Manchester St., Concord. See [bradmyrick.com](#).

• **All in one:** To suss the music of Canadian singer/guitarist **Bloodshot Bill**, imagine Gene Vincent & the Blue Caps and a bucket of fuzz tone distilled down to a demonic one-man band. "A blissful ruck of dancing, thrashing and awe," exclaimed Exclaim magazine. Check out "Stuffin' Her Stock-in'," his joyous new holiday single. See Bloodshot Bill, American Werewolf and Jupiter 2 on Friday, Dec. 19, at 10 p.m. at Sonny's Tavern, 83 Washington St., Dover. See [bloodshotbill.com](#).

• **Local lights:** To support Recycled Percussion leader Justin Spencer's **Legacy X** charity, bring an unwrapped toy and enjoy music from Joe Leary, MB Padfield, Cryin' Shame, Among the Living and a country rock set by Tell Tale Saints, featuring members of Barn Fire. The toys will be given to Manchester area children on Christmas day. Holiday X Toy Box Drive is on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. at Thrifty's Soundstage, 1015 Candia Road, Manchester. See on [fb.me/1ulay2w](#).

• **Sharing:** Enjoy music from **Alli Beaudry** and other local performers while raising money to help those in need. The annual event benefiting New Horizons of New Hampshire includes an appetizer buffet, and a musical lineup rounded out by Ryan Sandford, Dustin Newhouse and Lizz Potter & Friends. New Horizons Benefit is on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. Admission is \$10 and donations of clothing, canned goods and toys are welcome. Call 625-4444.

• **Holidaze:** Hard rock and jazz fusion meet Christmas as **John Paul's Trainwreck** performs an annual holiday show. It's billed as an all-star concert, and the rock school maven has plenty of friends, so expect a lively affair. Shout out a request for Spinal Tap's "Christmas With The Devil" — who knows what might happen? John Paul's Christmas Extravaganza is on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. at Whippersnappers, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry. See [facebook.com/johnpaulproductions](#).

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Listen on Spotify: [spoti.fi/1lv1t3b](#)

Jewel sits near the intersection of Granite and Canal streets in Manchester, little more than a stone's throw from the Verizon, but its ambitions aren't far removed from the arena up the street. It wants to be something long missing from the city — a live music venue on par with New England's best.

Jim Roesse, the visionary behind the new 400-capacity club, said he hopes to end the frustration of watching touring acts stop in Boston and Portland but skip New Hampshire completely.

"Bands that play the Paradise look around New England and there's no place to put them," Roesse said. "I wanted to make a real entertainment venue that will appeal to the national acts."

Roesse is a sound architect with the passion of an artist. His resume includes the Apollo in New York City and Boston's Wilbur Theatre. As local cover band Mugsy prepared to play for a private crowd, he ticked off the details of Jewel's sound and light setup.

"Midas Pro mixer, D&B line array, Lake system processing, full LED lighting with ACL," he said. "It makes for a high comfort factor."

Even if fans don't know exactly what he's talking about, musicians get it.

"If you're gonna open a rock club, Jim Roesse is the guy you want," said Mugsy lead singer Steve Archambault, noting touches like a light system that generates less heat onstage, and a sound-optimizing custom ceiling over the drum riser. "He knows the best gear and how to make a

Buckcherry w/ Charm City Devils & My Sister Will

When: Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Where: Jewel, 61 Canal St., Manchester

Tickets: \$39.95 & \$125 (VIP) at [ticketmaster.com](#) (21+)

Night Life Music, Comedy & Parties

• **HARVEY REID & JOYCE ANDERSEN CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at Four Corners Grille (40 Andover Road, New London 742-5664) on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. \$15 - Seacoast acoustic music luminaries intertwine their voices with Reid's guitars, autoharp and mandolins & Andersen's violin & viola.

• **CELTIC CHRISTMAS: THE SKY'S STORY** at Raymond Baptist Church (145 Route 27, Raymond 895-2859) on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7

p.m. Cross the high intensity Irish step dance of Riverdance with good humor and fast paced Celtic fiddle music and add a measure of Gospel seasoning.

• **SWEET, HOT & SASSY** at Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord 225-1111) on Friday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. Throwback band returns to perform holiday repertoire filled with close harmonies, warmth and Swing. Joining are guitarist Jim Prendergast and percussionist Carol Chaplin.

• **CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS** at Purple Pit (28 Central Square, Bristol 744-7800) on Friday, Dec. 19

at 8 p.m. \$15 BYOB - The Heather Pierson Quartet presents the musical score for the show originally telecast in December 1965.

• **CHRISTMAS WITH ROCKING HORSE STUDIO** at Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord 225-1111) on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. NH's premier studio showcases holiday songs - this show will feature Dusty Gray, Pat & the Hats, The Connection, Rachel Vogelzang, Chris Peters, Meg Josalen, Tristan Omand, and many others.

• **PAT O'BRIEN** at Spireside Coffee



Buckcherry. Courtesy photo.

place artist-friendly."

Jewel will open only for events.

"This is a live music room, and I'd like to do eight to 10 concerts a month," said Roesse. "Five days a week would be ideal."

The early slate of acts leans toward hard rock: Puddle of Mudd performed the first big show on Dec. 11. Upcoming are Buckcherry Dec. 18, a Tantric/Hookers & Blow double bill Jan. 4, Vanna Jan. 29, SnoCore Tour with Flyleaf and Adelitas Way Feb. 7, and Jackyl Feb. 22.

New England Concerts, run by promoter Bernie Goulet, is the room's exclusive agent. Goulet spoke of acts that could fill downtown Manchester's much larger Armory Ballroom (which NEC also books) playing at a premium price.

"I could get 800 fans at \$15 to \$20, or 400 at \$40," he said in a recent phone interview. "At Jewel, fans get the intimacy and bands can make the same money as they do at House of Blues or Royale in Boston."

In addition to headliners, Jewel plans to present original music showcases. A New

Year's Eve event features 4x4 Barracuda, with four area rock bands rounding out the bill. In early December, five local bands faced off for a chance to open the Dec. 18 Buckcherry show; My Sister Will took the honors.

With VIP seating and service, the club retains some accoutrements of its former incarnations, "but with rock star treatment," said promoter Goulet. For example, special \$125 seats for Buckcherry will include soundcheck entry in addition to a spot behind the velvet rope.

Contrasting the approach of Tupelo Music Hall, Jewel has full bar service, and Roesse spoke of attracting some of the same talent booked by the Londonderry room.

"Classic rock, comedy, with general admission or seated shows," he said. "We're open to all ideas."

In a Facebook post a few days before the private opening, Roesse wrote, "What could possibly happen if I decided to be part of something new [and] really nice, something with a cool vibe ... elegant?"

Housee (6 Stark Highway North, Dunbarton 744-4601) on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Accompanied by guitar, banjo and tin whistle, Pat sings original songs and tells stories that reflect her travels through Ireland.

• **DAVE BURBANK ORCHESTRA** at Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp, Newmarket 659-4410) on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. \$40 - Annual Christmas Dance and Buffet. Live music with the Dave Burbank Orchestra on the largest wooden dance floor in NH.



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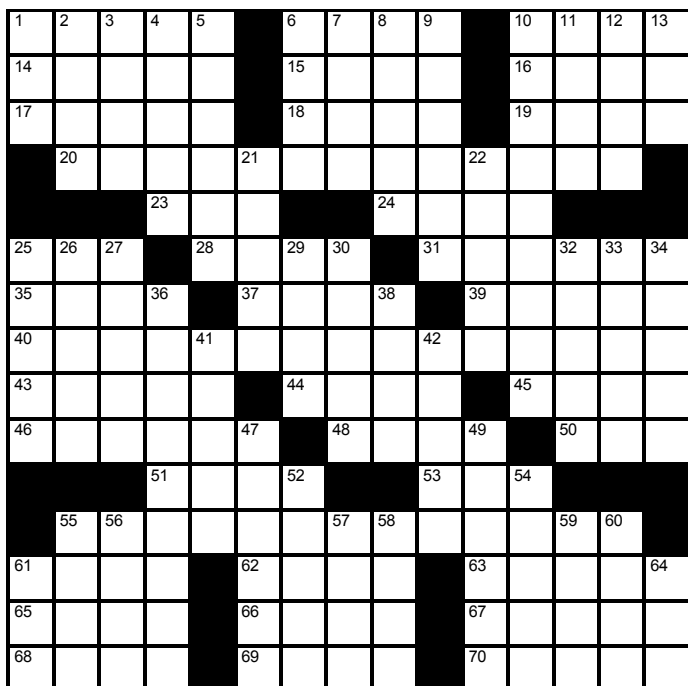
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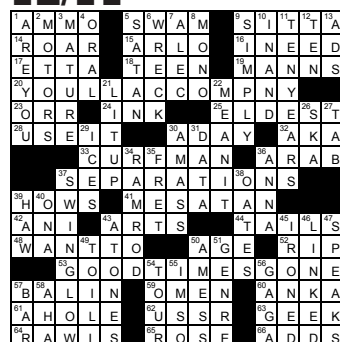
1. What The Beastie Boys have to do for their right to party
6. 'Savior' ___ Against
10. 'That's How Strong My Love Is' Redding
14. 'Demons And Wizards' ___ Heep
15. Cornershop had a 'Brimful Of' it

16. Chaka Khan song about destiny?
17. 'Stolen Shoes & A ___' Blitzen Trapper
18. Tesla 'The Way ___' (2,2)
19. Rodgers of Chic
20. 'Cross Me Out' Perth punkers that have boring meteor showers? (5,4,4)
23. John Mellancamp 'Uh- ___'



24. Place on bill
25. Melissa Etheridge 'Like The Way ___' (1,2)
28. Original MTV VJ Blackwood
31. Whitney Houston label
35. John Rzeznik 'I'm Still Here (___ Theme)'
37. Star's death, to fan
39. Earth, Wind And Fire song about an engine?
40. '83 'Seven And The Ragged Tiger' Duran Duran hit (5,2,3,5)
43. '07 The Academy Is...album
44. Kiss 'Dynasty' song '___ Eyes' (hyph)
45. Lifehouse song for merry go round music?
46. Orleans 'Still ___' (3,3)
48. Like crowd at killer show
50. Show enhancer, to stoners
51. '7 World Collide' Finn
53. Cars 'Just What I Needed' singer

12/11



- Benjamin
55. '03 Bon Jovi comp '___ Right' (4,4,5)
61. 'Jeopardy' Kihn
62. The Cult's 'Sonic Temple' ballad
63. Yusuf Islam 'Midday (___ City After Dark)'
65. Splendor '___, Whatever'
66. Iggy Pop '___ On Plate'
67. 'Layla' guitarist Allman
68. 'I'll stop the world and ___ w/you'
69. What retired rocker will do
70. Smash Mouth "Didn't make ___ not to live for fun"

Down

1. '97 Deftones album 'Around The ___'
2. Breeders song about eye part?
3. STP 'Tiny Music...Songs From The Vatican ___ Shop'
4. Mazzy Star 'She Hangs Brightly' opener
5. Fox On ___ (3,3)
6. Surprise security attack
7. Howard Jones 'No One ___ Blame' (2,2)
8. 'Phantom Limb' band
9. Cheech & Chong 'Born In ___' (4,2)
10. Robert Plant album 'Fate ___' (2,7)
11. Buck Owens 'I've Got A Tiger By The ___'
12. Hothouse Flowers '___ Be Easier In The Morning'
13. Mariah Carey "You'll finally ___ the

- truth that a hero lies in you"
21. Longtime Neil Diamond fav about imaginary childhood friend
22. They are filled out for international travel
25. "I don't want to work, ___ want to bang on the drum all day" (1,4)
26. Shore popular during 40s & 50s
27. Guns & Roses 'Sweet Child ___' (1,4)
29. 'Punk In Drublic' band
30. Asia's 3rd
32. Scott of Creed
33. 'Monsoon' ___ Hotel
34. 'The Kids ___ Alright' Offspring
36. Mazzy Star '___ That I Might See' (2,7)
38. Singer Marlena
41. What 50s guys dressed to
42. Sia '___ The Needle' (3,2)
47. Keith Richards song inspired by Dexy's Midnight Runners?
49. Dreadlocks, for short
52. Nearby when jamming to 'On The Roof'
54. The Jim Jones ___
55. 'She Hangs Brightly' from this hammock holder, to Mazzy Star
56. Concrete Blonde '___ It Up'
57. London band Marseille ___
58. 'Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm' Crash ___ Dummies
59. Vixen '___ Shark'
60. Ozzy has ultimate ones
61. ___ Class Heroes
64. 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' Kiki



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<div>  <div>Live music at local bars and restaurants</div> <div>MUSIC THIS WEEK</div> </div>			
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Rte 101 672-9898	Brookline Cozy Tea Cart 104 Rte 13 249-9111 Mad Hatter 99 Route 13 672-1800	Asia 42 Third St. 742-9816 Cara Irish Pub 11 Fourth St. 343-4390 Cartelli's 446 Central Ave. 750-4002 Central Wave 368 Central Ave. 742-9283 Dover Brick House 2 Orchard St. 749-3838 Fury's Publick House 1 Washington St. 617-3633 Jimmy's Sports Bar 15 Mechanic St. 740-4477 Kelley's Row 421 Central Ave. 750-7081 Loft at Strafford Farms 58 New Rochester Rd. 742-7012 Roger's Pizza 869 Central Ave. 742-9870 Sonny's Tavern 83 Washington St. 742-4226 Spaghetti Stain 421 Central Ave. 343-5257 Top of the Chop 1 Orchard St. 740-0006	Gilford Ellacoya Barn & Grille 2667 Lakeshore Road 293-8700 Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Concord Barley House 132 N. Main 228-6363 Cheers 17 Depot St. 228-0180 Granite 96 Pleasant St. 227-9000 Hermanos 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669 Makris 354 Sheep Davis Road 225-7665 Penuche's Ale House 6 Pleasant St. 228-9833 Pit Road Lounge 388 Loudon Road 226-0533 Red Blazer 72 Manchester St. 224-4101 Tandy's Top Shelf 1 Eagle Sk. 856-7614 True Brew Barista 3 Bicentennial Sq. 225-2776	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230 Wa Toy 611 Mast Road 668-1088	Hillsborough Mama McDonough's 5 Depot St. 680-4148 Turismo 55 Henniker St. 680-4440
Barrington Chip 'N Run Pub 550 Province Rd 664-2030	Bedford Bedford Village Inn 2 Olde Bedford Way 472-2001 Copper Door 15 Leavy Drive 488-2677 Shorty's 206 Rte 101 488-5706 Starbucks 220 S. River Rd 263-0061	Hampton Bernie's Beach Bar 73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050 Boardwalk Inn & Cafe 139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400 Breakers at Ashworth 295 Ocean Blvd. 926-6762 Breakers By the Sea 409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702 Cascade 3 D St. 926-5988 Millie's Tavern 17 L St. 967-4777 Old Salt 409 Lafayette Rd. 926-8322 Purple Urchin 167 Ocean Blvd 929-0800 Ron's Landing 379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122 Savory Square Bistro 32 Depot Sq 926-2202 Stacy Jane's 9 Ocean Blvd. 929-9005 Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954 Whales Tales 169 Ocean Blvd 967-4771	Hooksett Asian Breeze 1328 Hooksett Rd 621-9298 New England's Tap House Grille 1292 Hooksett Rd 782-5137 Pizza Man River Rd 626-7499
Belmont El Jimador 171 DW Hwy 527-8122 Lakes Region Casino 1265 Laconia Road 267-7778 Lodge at Belmont Rte 106 872-2501 Top of the Town 88 Ladd Hill Rd 528-3244	Contoocook Covered Bridge Cedar St. 746-5191	Hudson AJ's Sports Bar 11 Tracy Lane 718-1102 JD Chaser's 2B Burnham Rd 886-0792 Nan King 222 Central St. 882-1911 SoHo 49 Lowell Rd 889-6889	Lebanon Salt Hill Pub 2 West Park St. 448-4532
Boscawen Alan's 133 N. Main St. 753-6631	Deerfield Lazy Lion Café 4 North Rd 463-7374	Kingston Kingston 1686 House Tavern 127 Main St. 642-3637	Londonderry Coach Stop Tavern 176 Mammoth Rd 437-2022 Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Rd 432-3210 Twins Smoke Shop 128 Rockingham Rd Whippersnappers 44 Nashua Rd 434-2660
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 South St. 228-8508	Derry Coffee Factory 55 Crystal Ave. 432-6006 Halligan Tavern 32 W. Broadway 965-3490 Sabatino's North 1 E. Broadway 432-7999 Steve-N-James Tavern 187 Rockingham Rd 434-0600	Laconia Anthony's Pier 263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855 Baja Beach Club 89 Lake St. 524-0008 Broken Spoke Saloon 1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526 Cactus Jack's 1182 Union Ave. 528-7800 Crazy Gringo 306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411 Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Loudon Hungry Buffalo 58 Rte 129 798-3737
Bradford Appleseed Restaurant 63 High St. 938-2100	Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St. 679-9559 Telly's 235 Calef Hwy 679-8225	Manchester 99 Restaurant 1685 S. Willow St. 641-5999 BBQ New 333 Valley St. 782-5054 Breezeway Pub 14 Pearl St. 621-9111 British Beer Company 1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677 Cactus Jack's 782 South Willow St. 627-8600 Central Ale House 23 Central St. 660-2241	Manchester Anthony's Pier 263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855 Baja Beach Club 89 Lake St. 524-0008 Broken Spoke Saloon 1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526 Cactus Jack's 1182 Union Ave. 528-7800 Crazy Gringo 306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411 Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022
Bristol Back Room at the Mill 2 Central St. 744-0405 Rumor Mill 50 S Main St 217-0971	Epsom Circle 9 Ranch 39 Windymere 736-9656	Hamover Jesse's Tavern 224 Lebanon St. 643-4111 Salt Hill Pub 7 Lebanon St. 676-7855 Canoe Club 27 South Main Street 643-9660	Merrimack BBQ New 333 Valley St. 782-5054 Breezeway Pub 14 Pearl St. 621-9111 British Beer Company 1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677 Cactus Jack's 782 South Willow St. 627-8600 Central Ale House 23 Central St. 660-2241
Boscawen Alan's John Pratt in Lounge	Dover 11th Frame Bar 887 B Central Ave. 742-9632	Hanniker Country Spirit 262 Maple St. 428-7007	City Sports Grille 216 Maple St. 625-9656 CK's Grill 791 Second St. 669-2868 Club 313 93 S. Maple St. 628-6813 Club ManchVegas 50 Old Granite St. 222-1677 Crazy Camel Hookah and Cigar Lounge 245 Maple St. 518-5273 Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Rd 623-2880 Don Quijote 333 Valley St. 792-1110 Drynk 20 Old Granite St. 641-2583 Element Lounge 1055 Elm St. 627-2922 El Patron 253 Wilson St. 792-9170 Farm Bar & Grille 1181 Elm St. 641-3276 Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022 Gaucht's Churrascaria 62 Lowell St. 669-9460 Hanover St. Chophouse 149 Hanover St. 644-2467 Ignite Bar & Grille 100 Hanover St. 494-6225 J. Dubs Coffee 1000 Elm St. 622-7944 Jade Dragon 1087 Elm St. 782-3255 Jokers 1279 S Willow St. 935-9947 Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar 1077 Elm St. 647-6653 KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS Luigi's 712 Valley 622-1021 McGarvey's 1097 Elm St. 627-2721 Midnight Rodeo (Yard) 1211 S. Mammoth Rd 623-3545 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St. 625-4444 Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535 N'awlins Grille 860 Elm St. 606-2488 Olympic Lounge 506 Valley St. 644-5559
Amherst LaBelle: Robert Allwarden	Red Blazer: Christmas Music w/ Brad Myrick	Canoe Club: Michael Blum Salt Hill: Irish Trad' Session Randy Miller/Roger Kahle	Shaskeen: The Evil Streaks/ Thee Icepicks Shorty's: Steve Tolley Strange Brew: Soup du Jour Wild Rover: Mugsy Duo Merrimack Homestead: Malcolm Salls
Auburn Auburn Pitts: Rock N' Ronnie	Cara: Bluegrass w/ Steve Roy Fury's: Sean Fell	Paradise Beach Club: DJ Gin-E	Country Tavern: Brian Kellett Riverwalk: Nick Goumas Quartet Shorty's: Kieran McNally
Boscawen Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge	Holy Grail: Chris O'Neil & Gina Telly's: Bob Rutherford	Whippersnappers: 3 Sticks/ Tim Theriault/Chris Lester/David Stefanelli	Newmarket Stone Church: Live Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki & Jim Prendergast
Concord Granite: CJ Poole & The Sophisticated Approach Hermanos: Mike Stockbridge Penuche's: Blacklight Ruckus Holiday Party	Gilford Patrick's: Paul Warnick	Londonderry Coach Stop: Karen Grenier	Peterborough Harlow's: Bluegrass Jam
Hampton Savory Square: Wendy Nottinson	Plaistow Racks: Blues Jam w/ Steve Devine		



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821-5260

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883-9998
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Arena
53 High St. 881-9060
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Highway
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Club Social
240 Main Dustable
Road 889-9838
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St.
889-5871
Cucina Toscana
427 Amherst St.
821-7356
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd.
888-1551
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St. 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St. 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St. 886-7363
O'Shea's
449 Amherst St.
943-7089

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365
Waterhouse
18 Depot St. 547-8323

Plaistow
Crow's Nest
181 Plaistow Road
974-1686
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Road
974-2406

Portsmouth
Agave Mexican Bistro
111 State St. 427-5300
Blue Mermaid Island
409 The Hill 427-2583
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St. 886-3501

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Michael Troy
& Craig Tremack
Fat Belly's: DJ Flex
Press Room: Beat Night
Red Door: Local Heroes w/
Flat Swamp/Bedroom Eyes/New
Legs
Ri Ra: Dan Walker
Rudi's: Rob Gerry & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Soft Cactus

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882-4070
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Unums
47 E. Pearl St. 821-6500
Villa Banca
194 Main St. 598-0500
Wicked Twisted
38 East Hollis St.
577-1718

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd
487-2011

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road
526-6899

Newington
Paddy's
27 International Drive
430-9450

Newmarket
KJ's Sports Bar
22 North Main St.
659-2329
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St. 659-3696
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 659-7700

Newport
Salt Hill Pub
58 Main St. 863-7774

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Waterhouse
18 Depot St. 547-8323

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Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Road
974-2406

Portsmouth
Agave Mexican Bistro
111 State St. 427-5300
Blue Mermaid Island
409 The Hill 427-2583

Rochester
Smokey's Tavern: Evan Brock

Friday, Dec. 19
Bedford
Shorty's: Jeff Mrozek
Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Russ

Boscawen
Alan's: Lisa Guyer

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163 Islington St.
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Coat of Arms
174 Fleet St. 431-0407
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St. 430-1011
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Grill 28
200 Grafton Road 433-
1331
Harbor's Edge
250 Market St. 431-2300
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
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JT's Bar and Grill
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Sayde's Restaurant
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890-1032
Varsity Club
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Concord
Makris: Scott "Snake" Miller &
the Helljacks
Pit Road Lounge: Hating
Monday
Red Blazer: Mike & Danielle
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: Foam

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Brickhouse: DJ Erich Kruger

Fury's: Crushed Out
Sonny's Tavern: Bloodshot Bill, American Werewolf, Jupiter 2
Strafford Farms: Driving Force
Top of the Chop: Funkadelic Fridays

Epping

Holy Grail: Boo Boo Groove

Gilford

Patrick's: Dustin Ladale

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Acoustic Night w/ Mark Huzar

Hampton

Savory Square: Dave Gerard
Wally's Pub: Hott Commodity

Hanover

Canoe Club: Joseph Stallsmith

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: DJ Alban

Laconia

Pitman's: Juke Joint Five

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Steve Sibulkin
Whippersnappers: Over 6

Manchester

Breezeway: DJ McKay NRG Dance
Central Ale House: DJ Vicious/
 DJ SP1 Mother Funkin Fridays
City Sports: Stuck In Time
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Ripcord
Drynk: DJs Jason Spivak & Sammy Smoove
Fratello's: Brad Bosse
Karma: Hallorans
ManchVegas: Eric Grant Band
Murphy's: Triple Tantrum
N'awlins Grille: Jared Trio
Penuche's: After Funk
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: The Joshua Tree
Strange Brew: BJ Magoon
 & Driving Sideways Rockin' Christmas Show
Wild Rover: Almost Famous

Merrimack

Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Milford

Chapangas: Monkeys With Hammers
Clark's: Tristan Omand
Tiebreakers: Steve Tolley

Nashua

Arena: Shawn Collins/DJ Danjah

Country Tavern: Olde Salt
Fody's: Hunter
O'Shea's: Alan Roux - Blues
Stella Blu: Joe McDonald

New Boston

Molly's: Wooden Soul/Dominique

Newmarket

Stone Church: Harsh Armadillo w/ Smooth Antics

Peterborough

Harlow's: Dub Apocalypse

Plaistow

Crow's Nest: Off Duty Angels

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Jamsterdam
Dolphin Striker: Rythm Method
Fat Belly's: DJ SKD
Martingale Wharf: Jody & Rob
Oar House: Bob Arens
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Soggy Po' Boys
Portsmouth Gaslight: Flash-back Fridays w/ DJ KoKo
 P;Johnny Angel/Tony Santesse
Press Room: Whale Oil with Spencer
Red Door: Ben Cosgrove/
 Stereo3mistry (Hush Hush)
Ri Ra: Now Is Now
Rudi's: Chris Klaxton & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Young Love and the Thrills

Rochester

Radloff's: Dancing Madly Backwards Duo
Smokey's: Six Feet Over

Salem

Black Water: Rick Breton & Crew
Sayde's: salsa night, DJ Anthony

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Inner Child

Warner

The Local: Delta Blues, Poor Howard Stith, Mike Bullfrog Rogers

Weare

Stark House: Heath Bartley

Saturday, Dec. 20

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy

Bedford

Shorty's: Rob & Jody

Belmont

Lakes Region Casino: DJ Russ

Boscawen

Alan's: Heath Bartley

Concord

Hermanos: John Franzosa
Penuche's: Amorphous
Pit Road Lounge: Day Janeiro
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz

Dover

Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Cara: DJ Midas Christmas Bash
Fury's: Stop Tito Collective

Epping

Holy Grail: TBA

Gilford

Patrick's: Jimmy and Marcelle

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Mr. Nick & the Dirty Tricks

Hampton

Old Salt: Sev
Savory Square: Mel & John
Wally's Pub: Wildside

Hanover

Canoe Club: Billy Rosen

Hillsborough

Turismo: Red House Road Blues

Hooksett

Tap House: No Guarantees

Laconia

Baja Beach Club: DJ
Pitman's Freight Room: Carolyn Ramsay Band w/ Joel Cage

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Tom Rousseau
Whippersnappers: The Voice

Manchester

Central Ale: Phileep & the Beat
City Sports: Soundtrack to Monday
Club 313: Divas Gone Wild w/ Mercadies
Derryfield: Soundtrack To Monday
Fratello's: Steve Tolley
Jade Dragon: Jester Jigs/
 Cosmic Factory
Karma: Michael Fioretti
ManchVegas: Brick Park
Midnight Rodeo: Fried Cactus (Ugly Sweater Contest)
Milly's: New Horizon fundraiser
Murphy's: Best Not Broken
N'awlins: Brickyard Blues
Penuche's: Greenlights

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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 18

Derry
Halligan Tavern: Matt Kona/Jim Laprel

Hudson

Soho: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Rochester

Radloff's: Jay Grove Match Game

Saturday, Dec. 20

Dover

Chameleon Club: Rob Steen

Manchester

Headliners: Frank Santos, Jr. (R-Rated Comedy Hypnotist)

Sunday, Dec. 21

Rochester

Radloff's: Ira Proctor

Monday, Dec. 22

Concord

Penuche's: Punchlines Open Comedy

Saturday, Dec. 27

Manchester

Headliners: Rob Steen/Mike Koutroubis/

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West Lebanon
 Raxx: DJ Mike
 Shaskeen: 4everFab
 Strange Brew: Ricky "King" Russell
 Wild Rover: John Ridlon

Merrimack
 Homestead: Lachlan Maclearn

Milford
 Clark's: Karen Grenier
 J's Tavern: Olde Salt

Nashua
 Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
 Country Tavern: Jeff Mrozek
 Fody's: Tore Down House
 O'Shea's: Eddie Marini
 Riverwalk Cafe: Baza Blues
 Stella Blu: Rampage Trio
 Wicked Twisted: Point of Entry

New Boston
 Molly's: Otis & the Elevators

Newmarket
 Stone Church: Rustic Overtones

Peterborough
 Harlow's: Daemon Chili

Portsmouth
 Blue Mermaid: Kristen Ford
 British Beer: D- Comp Trio
 Dolphin Striker: George Belli & the Retroactivists
 Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
 Martingale Wharf: Dave Drouin
 Oar House: Steve Sibulkin
 Portsmouth Book & Bar: Chris Klaxton
 Portsmouth Gaslight: Night-club: DJ KoKo P/Corey Brackett/Malcolm Salls
 Press Room: The Mallet Brothers
 Red Door: Tom Bartlett
 Ri Ra: The Complaints
 Rudi's: PJ Donahue Trio
 Thirsty Moose: Cover Story

Raymond
 Cork n Keg: Rosie

Rochester
 Gary's: Red Sky Mary
 Smokey's Tavern: Tom Schena

Seabrook
 Chop Shop: Tigerlily

Sunapee
 One Mile West: Conniption Fits

Warner
 The Local: Christmas Extravaganza w/ Brad Myrick

Weare
 Stark House: Mike Gallant

Seven Barrel Brewery:
 Thresher Wheat

Sunday, Dec. 21
Bedford
 Copper Door: Joe McDonald

Bristol
 Rumor Mill: Rumor Has It

Concord
 Granite: Jazz Brunch - CJ Poole
 Hermanos: Eric Chase

Dover
 Cara: Irish Session w/ Carol Coronis & Ramona Connelly

Goffstown
 Village Trestle: Blues Jam w/ Travis Colby (Wan-tu Xmas Party)

Hanover
 Canoe Club: Tom Lord
 Salt Hill Pub Hanover: O'hAnleigh

Londonderry
 Whippersnappers: John Paul's Christmas Extravaganza

Manchester
 Drynk: Beach Bash w/ Sammy Smoove
 Milly's: New Horizons Christmas Benefit
 Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
 Strange Brew: One Big Soul w/ Uptown Jazz

Meredith
 Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Portsmouth
 Dolphin Striker: Pete Peterson
 Press Room: A Charlie Brown Christmas
 Red Door: Green Lion Crew
 Rudi's: Jazz Brunch With Ms. Sharon Jones

Rochester
 Lilac City Grille: Brunch - Tony Santesse
 Radloff's: James McGarvey

Seabrook
 Chop Shop: Rob Benton

Monday, Dec. 22
Concord
 Hermanos: Eric Chase

Hanover
 Canoe Club: Marko The Magician - Tableside Magic!The Chordsmen

Manchester
 Fratello's: Rob Wolfe
 N'awlins Grille: Nate Comp

Merrimack
 Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Newmarket
 Stone Church: Wild Eagles Blues Band

Portsmouth
 Dolphin Striker: Old School Press Room: Nick Goumas
 Red Door: Tiger Saw/Guy Cappecelatro III
 Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Concord
 Hermanos: Brad Myrick

Dover
 Fury's: Tim Theriault
 Sonny's: Soggy Po' Boys

Hanover
 Canoe Club: Jonathan Kaplan

Londonderry
 Whippersnappers: VJ Mark/DJ Box

Manchester
 Drynk: Sammy Smoove & DJ Gera
 Fratello's: Kim Riley
 Milly's: Manchuka
 N'awlins: John Chouinard
 Raxx: DJ Mike
 Strange Brew: Strange Brew All Stars

Merrimack
 Homestead: Paul Luff

Newmarket
 Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/Dave Talmage

Portsmouth
 Blue Mermaid: Honky Tonk w/ Seldom Playwrights
 Dolphin Striker: Michael Troy

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Manchester
 Strange Brew: Howard Randall & Friends
 Zaboo: Three Kings w/ Midas, Miles Deep & Exodus

Portsmouth
 Red Door: Red On Red w/ Evaredy (Ladies Night)
 Ri Ra: Irish Wednesdays w/ Great Bay Sailor

Rochester
 Lilac City Grille: Ladies Night - Tim Theriault

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to music@hippopress.com. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion at Meadowbrook 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddleh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francetown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whitcenter.com

• **Entrain** Friday, Dec. 19 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **James Montgomery w/ Grace Kelly** Saturday, Dec. 20 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Capital Jazz Holiday Pops** Sunday, Dec. 21 8 p.m. Cap Center
 • **Sergei Novikov** Sunday, Dec. 21 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Holiday Pops** Sunday, Dec 21 8 p.m. Cap Center
 • **Rockapella** Sunday, Dec 21 7 p.m. Stockbridge Theatre
 • **Jim Brickman - Magic of Christmas** Monday, Dec 22 7:30 p.m. Palace Theatre
 • **Stephen Kellogg** Saturday, Dec 27 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Juston McKinney's Last Laugh 2014** Saturday, Dec. 27 8

p.m. Music Hall
 • **Recycled Percussion** Sunday, Dec 28 1:30 & 6:30 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Adam Ezra Group** Wednesday, Dec 31 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Recycled Percussion** Wednesday, Dec 31 - Saturday, Jan. 3 7:30 p.m. Palace Theatre
 • **Paula Poundstone** Saturday, Jan. 3 7:30 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Robbie Printz, Karen Fitzgerald, and Joe Espi** Saturday, Jan. 3 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Cher w/ Pat Benetar** Monday, Jan. 5 8 p.m. Verizon Wireless
 • **Cherry Poppin' Daddies** Thursday, Jan. 8 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Bruce in the USA** Friday, Jan. 9 7:30 p.m. Palace Theatre

• **Chad Perrone** Friday, Jan. 9 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Laurie Berkner** Saturday, Jan. 10 8 p.m. Cap Center
 • **The Spirit of Johnny Cash** Saturday, Jan. 10 7:30 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Keller Williams** Saturday, Jan. 10 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Dave Russo** Wednesday, Jan. 14 7 p.m. Stockbridge Theatre
 • **8-Track Sounds of the 70s** Thursday, Jan. 15 8 p.m. Rochester Opera House
 • **Apple Hill String Quartet** Friday, Jan. 16 8 p.m. Colonial Theatre
 • **Comedy night** Friday, Jan. 16 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Jeff Pitchell** Saturday, Jan. 17 8 p.m. Tupelo



ROCKING CHRISTMAS

Enjoy an evening of traditional and contemporary Christmas music performed by some of the state's finest singers and musicians at Rocking Horse Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at Capitol Center for the Arts (44 South Main St., Concord 225-1111). Inspired by last year's Emmy-nominated A New Hampshire Chronicle Christmas at Rocking Horse Studio, the show will feature Dusty Gray, Pat & the Hats, The Connection, Rachel Vogelzang, Chris Peters, Meg Josalen, Tristan Omand, and many others. Tickets \$15 at ccanh.com.



DOUBLE FUN

A veteran bluesman is joined by an up-and-coming jazz player as James Montgomery and Grace Kelly perform on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. at Tupelo Music Hall (2 Young Rd., Londonderry 437-5100). Montgomery unabashedly calls Kelly "the hottest young talent on the planet" and promises the 22-year old saxophonist and singer's take on the blues is as breathtaking as the talent that's seen her share stages with Wynton Marsalis, Phil Woods, Jamie Curran and Huey Lewis, among others. Tickets are \$25-\$25 at tupelohall.com.

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"Sorry, Wrong Letter" — sounds like something else is happening

Across

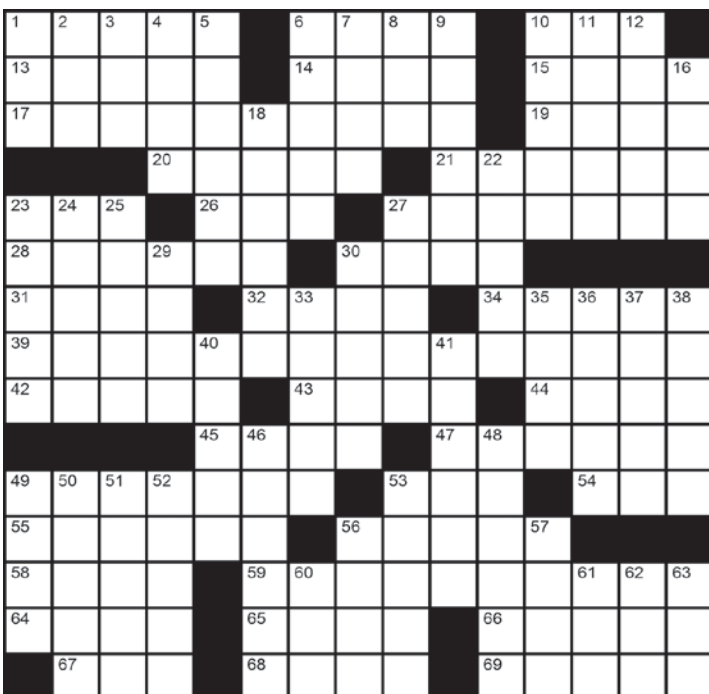
- 1 "Gone With the Wind" star
6 Festival
10 Exclamation from Emeril
13 Group featuring Mr. T
14 Soothing plant
15 "Victory is mine!"

- 17 Guy in the crow's nest (original-ly with an I)?
19 "Looking for a New Love" singer Watley
20 Unanticipated problems
21 Folds under pressure
23 A number of years

- 26 Canon model named for a goddess
27 "Hand that Netflix list over here, will ya?" (originally with a Y)?
28 Tune from "The Sound of Music"
30 Burr-Hamilton battle
31 On
32 Feng ____
34 Savanna antelope
39 Had shoppers wait too long to get oolong? (originally with a B)?
42 Word before drum or guitar
43 Loving
44 Utah vacation spot
45 Cornbread cake
47 Friendly words from Francois
49 "Way to ace that IQ test!" (originally with a G)?
53 Skedaddle

- 54 "Down for the count" number
55 Courtroom loser's recourse
56 Union issue
58 Way for Mario to exit
59 Going down the street with your podmates (originally with a J)?
64 Hired a litigator
65 Actress Hathaway
66 Ease
67 Butterworth or Doubtfire
68 Demand
69 1936 Olympics great

- 25 Become eaten away
27 Cozy cover
29 Blunted fencing weapon
30 Dog the Bounty Hunter's first name
33 Company with its HQ in Pittsburgh
35 Rely (on)
36 G-sharp's equivalent
37 "Pick someone else!"
38 Bathtub part
40 First letter, to Aristotle
41 "Zip Drive" maker that merged with Lenovo
46 Crankcase component
48 Verdi opera based on a Shakespeare play
49 Blathers
50 Drug in a den
51 ____ Peninsula (part of Michigan)
52 Mary Louise Parker show
53 Chattered away
56 Wax counterpart
57 Throw off, as results
60 Compass pt.
61 Suffix with Manhattan
62 Palindromic woman
63 Driving device



12/11



Down

- 1 Fill-up fluid
2 Took in a T-bone
3 Arthur who played Maude
4 Bad guys break them
5 Rapper on the 2014 album "Shady XV"
6 Vampire's weapons
7 They can be pale
8 Apple letters
9 "Baywatch" event
10 Old movie theater name
11 Heard the alarm clock
12 Data-sending device
16 Wall St. institution
18 One who practices wu-wei
22 "The Queen" star Mirren
23 First U.S. vice president
24 Bothered

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All quotes are from poems by F. S. Flint, born Dec. 19, 1885.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Evening and quiet: / a bird trills in the poplar trees / behind the house with the dark green door / across the road. A week of quiet evenings is just what you need right now. Bird trilling is optional.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *London, my beautiful, / It is not the sunset / Nor the pale green sky / Shimmering through the curtain / Of the silver birch, / Nor the quietness; / It is not the hopping / Of the little birds / Upon the lawn, / Nor the darkness / Stealing over all things / That moves me. Figure out what it is that really moves you.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *You were among the apple branches; / the sun shone, and it was November. / Sun and apples and laughter / and love / we gathered, you and I. / And the birds were singing. You bring the apples; someone else will bring the laughter.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *You passed me by, and our eyes met. / We had not seen each other since the days / we climbed the Devon hills together Good times with an old friend are on your horizon.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Have I performed / the dozen acts or so / that make me the man / men see? Don't forget to brush your teeth and wash your face in the morning.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Hawthorn, / white and odorous with blossom, / framing the quiet fields, / and swaying flowers and grasses, / and the hum of bees. / Oh,*

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		2		5	1			
			4		9	6		
9	4							
			6			2	8	
3		1		7				9
	6	1		4				
						7		2
		3	9		2			
			8	4		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

12/25

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/11

5	1	6	4	3	8	7	9	2
3	4	9	7	5	2	8	1	6
2	7	8	1	9	6	4	5	3
4	3	5	6	2	7	9	8	1
6	2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5
8	9	1	3	4	5	6	2	7
1	8	3	5	6	4	2	7	9
7	5	2	9	8	3	1	6	4
9	6	4	2	7	1	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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these are the things that are with me now, / in the town; / and I am grateful / for this minute of my manhood. A little gratitude will go a long way this week.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *But as the moon creeps slowly / over the tree-tops / among the stars, / I think of her / and the glow her passing / sheds on men. A little moonlight romance may be in the offing.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Elm trees / and the leaf the boy in me hated / long ago — / rough and sandy. / Poplars / and their leaves, / tender, smooth to the fingers, / and a secret in their smell / I have forgotten. You will revisit the leaves you used to hate, and things will seem different.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *...our eyes met, startled; / and, because the order was Silence, / we dared not speak. Put your cell phone on vibrate and pay attention to the performance.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *And joy! this is my room; / there are my books, there the piano, / there the last bar I wrote, / there the last line, / And oh the sunlight! / A parrot screeches. Spend some time in a room of your own, sorting things out.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *There is a quiet here / within the thud-thud of the wheels / upon the railway. Look beyond the obvious.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *The grass is beneath my head; / And I gaze / At the thronging stars / In the aisles of night. A little stargazing will bring a lot of inspiration.*



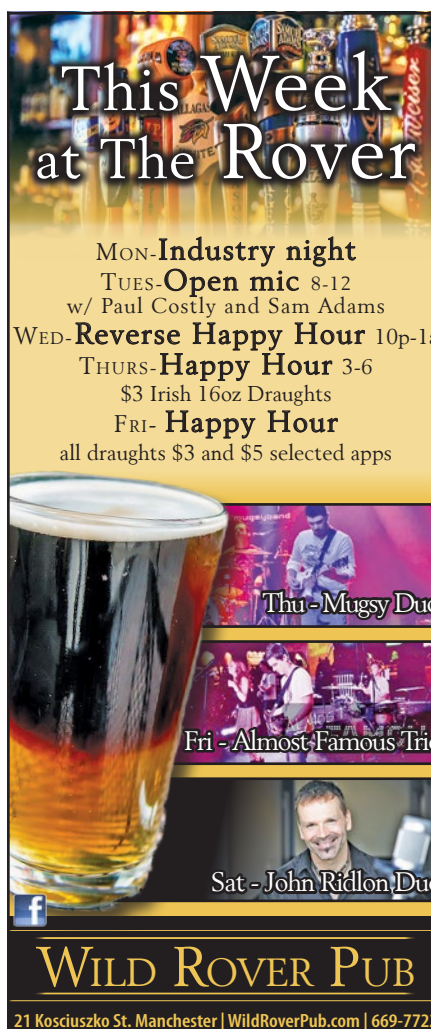
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- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to arts@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Book Editor, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
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- **Listings** — Send information on events and classes for kids, continuing education for adults, fitness and health classes and events, local museum events and exhibits, volunteer needs and more to listings@hippopress.com. Please send information intended for listings section at least two weeks before the publication date (Hippo publishes every Thursday) before the event. Please note that due to space constraints, not all listings run every week.
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Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

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 Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

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 Contact our classified ad department at classifieds@hippopress.com or 625-1855 ext. 25. The deadline for classifieds is Monday at noon.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Dying to get a date

Like many in society's subgroups, people who work in "death" industries or professions in the U.K. may believe it difficult to reach "like-minded" suitors. Hence, Carla Valentine established Dead Meet earlier this year and told Vice.com in October that she has drawn 5,000 sign-ups among morticians, coroners, embalmers, cemetery workers, taxidermists, etc., who share her chagrin that "normal" people are often grossed out or too indiscreet to respect the dignity of her industry's "clients." We might, said Valentine, need a sensitive companion at the end of the day to discuss a particularly difficult decomposition. Or, she added, perhaps embalmers make better boyfriends because their work with cosmetics helps them understand why "many women take so long to get ready."

Can't possibly be true

- A passerby shooting video in November outside the Lucky River Chinese restaurant in San Francisco caught an employee banging large slabs of frozen meat on the sidewalk which was an attempt, said the manager, to defrost them. A KPIX-TV reporter, visiting the precise sidewalk area on the video, found it covered in "blackened gum, cigarette butts and foot-tracked bacteria," but the manager said the worker had been fired and the meat discarded. (The restaurant's previous health department rating was 88, which qualifies as "adequate.")

- India's Orissa state has established "health camps" to facilitate mass sterilizations to help control the booming population, but procedures were halted in November when Dr. Mahesh Chandra Rout matter-of-factly told BBC News that camps routinely used ordinary bicycle pumps to inflate women's abdomens. Orissa's senior health official immediately ended the practice and ordered sterilizations only in hospitals. (Enlarging the abdomen helps the surgeon to operate, but the proper agent is carbon dioxide.)

- The Food and Veterinary Administration of Denmark shut down the food supplier Nordic Ingredients in November after learning that it used an ordinary cement mixer to prepare gelatin products for nursing home and hospital patients unable to swallow whole food. An FVA official told a reporter: "It was an orange cement mixer just like bricklayers use. There were layers (of crusty remains) from previous uses." As many as 12 facilities, including three hospitals, had food on hand from Nordic Ingredients.

Government in action

- Questionable Judgment: Assistant Attorney General Karen Straughn of Maryland issued an official warning recently for consumers to watch out for what might be called "the \$100 bill on the windshield" scam. (That is, if you notice a \$100 bill tucked under your

wiper, do not try to retrieve it; it is likely there to trick you into opening your door to a car-jacker.) When questioned by WJLA-TV of Washington, D.C., Straughn admitted there were no actual reports of such attempts and that the story is a well-known urban legend but nonetheless defended the warning.

- Lesson in Civics: North Hempstead, New York, enforces its dog-littering ordinance with steep \$250 fines and street-sign warnings displaying the amount. However, insiders have long known that the signs are wrong, that the written regulation calls for fines of only \$25, and officials have been discussing how to correct their error while still discouraging littering. According to a November WCBS-TV report, now that residents know the actual amount, the debate is whether to replace the erroneous signs (expensive) or just raise the fine 1,000 percent (to \$250) and save money.

- A November order from China's State Administration for Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television appears to impose a ban on the use of all idioms including puns as part of the government's crackdown on nonstandard language, especially since that discourages children from learning proper vocabulary and grammar. All mass media outlets must "avoid changing the characters, phrasings and meanings" of words even though, according to the Beijing reporter for London's The Guardian, Chinese culture is saturated with puns.

- As revealed in a spirited public meeting of the Huron Valley (Michigan) Board of Education in November, gun-carriers' freedoms in the state appear complicated, in that a person with training and who submits to state licensing to carry a concealed weapon may carry it even on school grounds (despite the feder-

al Gun-Free Zones Act of 1990). Michigan's lawful exception to the act requires concealed permit-holders to carry the gun unconcealed, which many parents contend frightens younger children. Also, though it is illegal for anyone alcohol-impaired to carry a gun anywhere, the legal threshold for presumed impairment in Michigan is only .02 percent for a licensed permit holder, but probably .08 percent for unlicensed "open"-carriers (who are not covered by the "concealed" law).

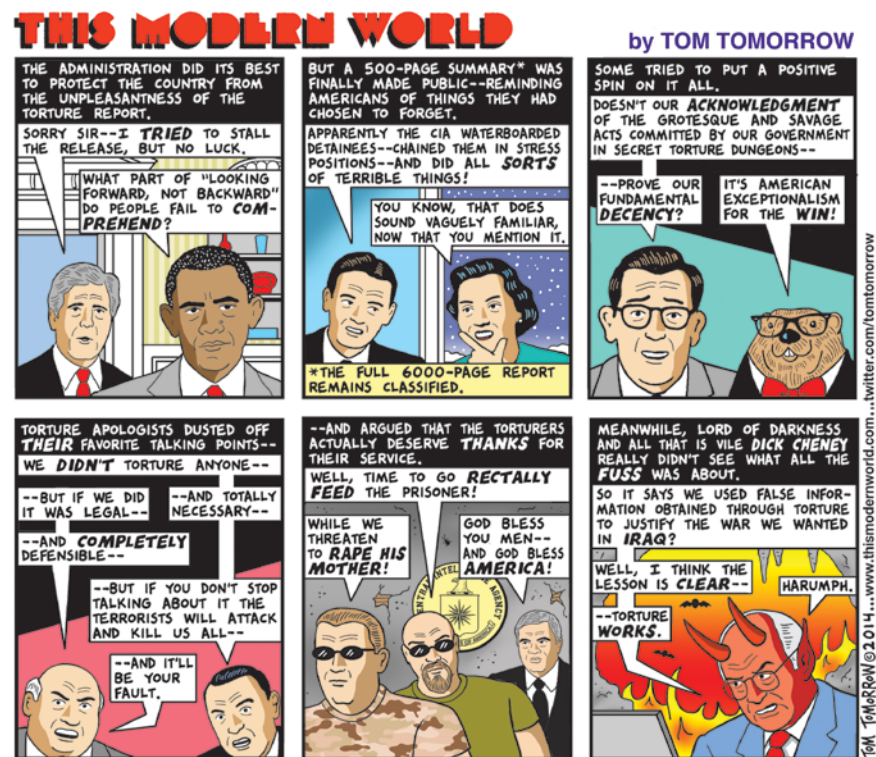
The continuing crisis

As young professionals have embraced urban neighborhoods, locally grown produce has proliferated in community (and even backyard) gardens and is thought to be healthier than pesticide-laden commercial produce. However, the New York Post revealed in November (based on state Health Department data) that such gardens in construction-dense New York City are vulnerable to astonishingly high levels of lead and other toxic metals. One community garden in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant, for example, showed levels of lead nearly 20 times the safe level.

Wait, what?

In November, a clothing store on Yabao Road in Beijing came under criticism for posting a sign, "Chinese Not Admitted," on its door. An employee told the Beijing Youth Daily newspaper that no one should believe that "we Chinese look down upon ourselves. But some Chinese customers are too annoying." (A legal scholar told the newspaper that China, except for Hong Kong, has no law against racial or ethnic discrimination.)

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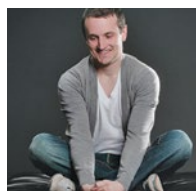
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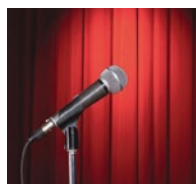


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8:00 p.m.
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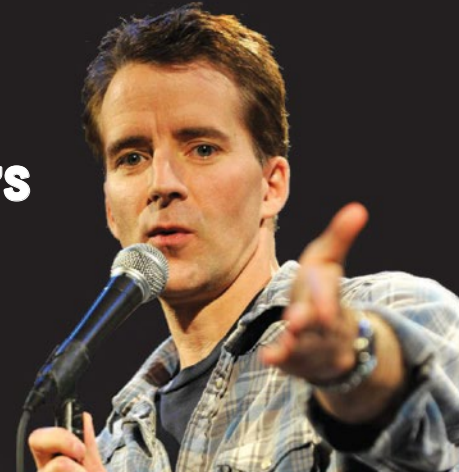
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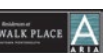
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